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# HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN

PART II.

F. ELRINGTON BALL





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A HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTY DUBLIN:

THE PEOPLE, PARISHES AND ANTIQUITIES FROM THE EARLIEST  
TIMES TO THE CLOSE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

PART SECOND

Being a History of that portion of the County comprised within  
the Parishes of

DONNYBROOK, BOOTERSTOWN, ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

ST. MARK, TANEY,

ST. PETER, AND RATHFARNHAM.

BY

FRANCIS ELRINGTON BALL.

DUBLIN:

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND PART.

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IN issuing the second part of my history I have to thank my readers for the favourable reception which they have accorded to my attempt to collect the annals of my native county, and to express my appreciation of the kindly manner in which the first part of this work has been reviewed.

It is my hope that the publication of the next part may not be so long delayed as the present one has been, and that, as has been suggested, I may be enabled on the completion of the history of the parishes to write an introduction dealing with the general history of the entire county.

I wish once more to acknowledge the encouragement and assistance afforded me by my brother fellows and members of the Royal Society of Antiquarians of Ireland, in whose journal, in papers of mine on "Mount Merrion and its History," "The Antiquities from Blackrock to Dublin," and "The Battle of Rathmines," some of the information contained in these pages has already appeared.

In the preparation of this part for Press I have again had the benefit of the historical and archaeological knowledge of Mr. James Mills, the Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland; Mr. C. Litton Falkiner, the Rev. William Reynell, and Mr. Tenison Groves. I am also indebted in a very special degree to the Earl of Pembroke and to his agent, Mr. Fane Vernon. Besides these, I have received assistance, for which I am most grateful, from the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea; Dr. P. W. Joyce, Mr. H. F. Berry, the Assistant Deputy Keeper

of the Records in Ireland; Mr. M. J. McEnery, Sir Arthur Vicars, Mr. G. D. Burtchaell, Rev. P. Dinneen, Sir Frederick Shaw, Mrs. Blackburne, Mr. Louis Perrin-Hatchell, Sir John Nutting, and Mr. W. H. Robinson. The Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, Dr. M. J. James, and his assistant, Mr. H. A. Chapman, have given me every facility, as have also Mr. Alfred de Burgh, of Trinity College Library; Mr. T. W. Lyster, of the National Library of Ireland; Mr. J. J. M'Sweeney, of the Royal Irish Academy; and the Librarians of the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries.

The Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office has permitted me to make use of the Ordnance Map for the purposes of the frontispiece, and the blocks from which some of the illustrations have been taken have been lent me by the Council of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and by the Editor of the "Transactions of Quatuor Coronati Lodge."

F. ELRINGTON BALL.

Dublin,

*April*, 1903.

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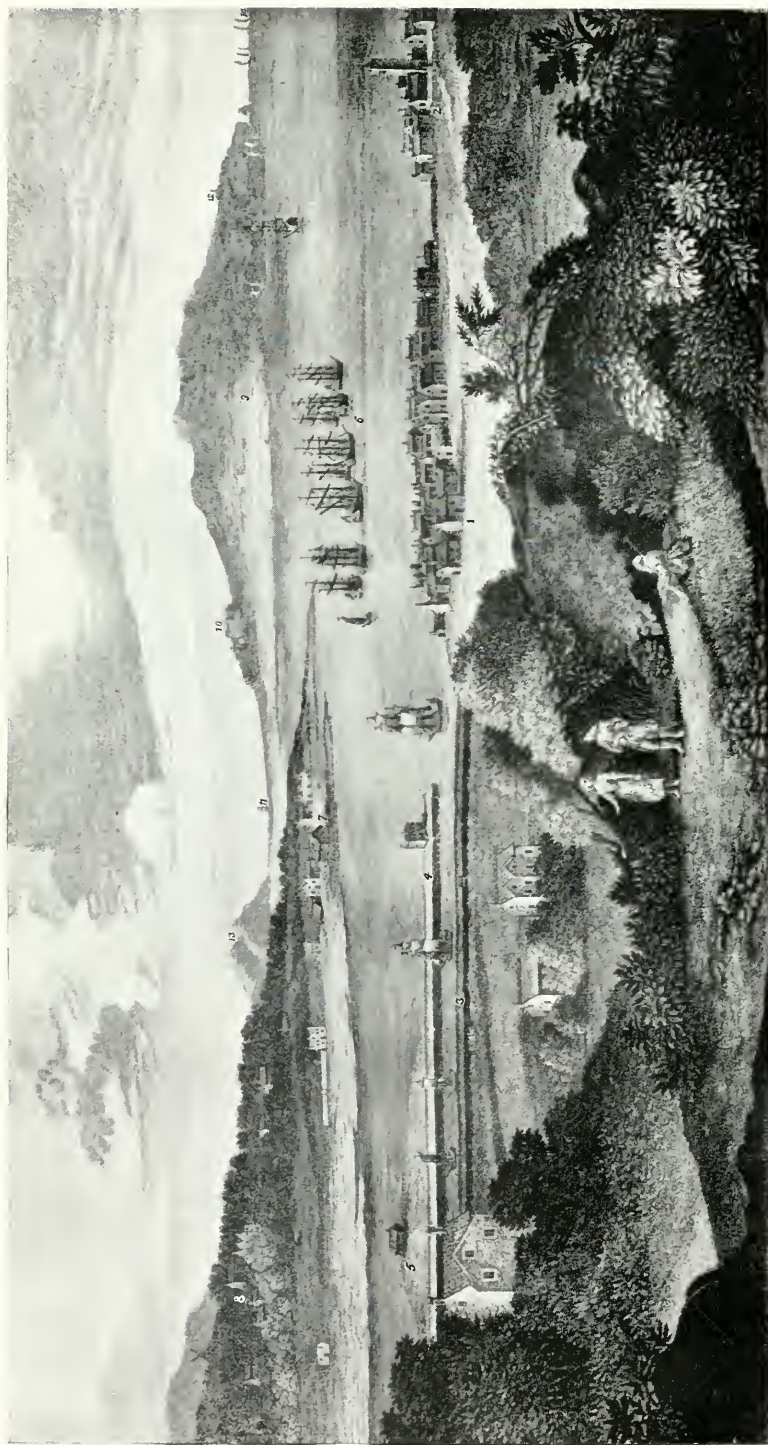


## INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND PART.

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THE parishes which have been grouped in this part of the history lie to the south of the City of Dublin in the Baronies of Rathdown, Dublin, and Upper Cross. They are bounded on the east by the sea, on the south by the parishes of Monkstown, Stillorgan, Kilmaeud, Kilgobbin, and Whitechurch, on the west by the parishes of Tallaght and Crumlin, and on the north by the City of Dublin, and are intersected by the River Dodder, the most important river next to the Liffey in the County Dublin. With the exception of portion of the parishes of Taney and Rathfarnham they comprise thickly populated suburban districts, forming two of the largest townships in the metropolitan county, Rathmines and Pembroke, and portion of the township of Blackrock.

At one time these parishes were closely connected; their churches were portion of the corps of the Archdeaconry of Dublin, and nearly all the lands which they contain were divided between three owners, the Fitzwilliams of Merrión, who are now represented by the Earl of Pembroke; the Brets of Rathfarnham, who were succeeded by the Loftuses; and the Archbishop of Dublin. This history treats of these parishes, when there were but eleven residences of any importance within their bounds, namely, the Castles of Merrión, Booterstown, Simmonscourt, Baginbun, Donnybrook, Roebuck, Dundrum, Balally, Rathmines, Rathfarnham, and Terenure; and four places of worship, namely, the Churches of Donnybrook, Dundrum, and Rathfarnham, and the small chapel of Merrión. The lands were entirely devoted to agriculture, and



A View from Beggar's Bush in 1744.

(From an Engraving drawn by William Jones.)

1. Ringsend. 2. Irishtown. 3. The South Wall. 4. The North Wall. 5. Clontarf Island. 6. Pool Beg. 7. Sheds of Clontarf. 8. Clontarf.
9. Howth. 10. Lord Howth's House. 11. Maiden Tower. 12. Light House. 13. Ireland's Eye. 14. Land Bay or Dublin Bay.



# Parishes of Donnybrook, Booterstown, & St. Bartholomew,

AND PART OF THE

## Parish of St. Mark, Dublin.

*Formerly the Parish of Donnybrook—i.e., Domlnach-Broc or the Church of St. Broc,  
and part of the Parish of St. Kevin.*

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The Parish of Donnybrook in the seventeenth century appears to have consisted of the Townlands of Merrion, Booterstown, Simmonscourt, Donnybrook, Forty Acres, and Baggotrath.

These Townlands with an addition from the Parish of St. Kevin, are now represented by the modern Townlands of Annefield, Baggotrath, Baggotrath East, Ballsbridge, Beggarsbush, Blackrock, Booterstown (*i.e.*, Baile-an-bhothair, or the Town of the Road), Clonskeagh (*i.e.*, Cloonske, or the Meadow of the White Thorn Bushes), Donnybrook East and West, Fortyaeres, Irishtown, Merrion (Nos. I. and II.), Priesthouse, Ringsend (*i.e.*, Rinn-Aun, the Point of the Tide, or more probably the end of the Rinn or point), Sallymount, Sandymount, Simmonscourt, Smotscourt, and Williamstown.

The small portion of the County Dublin, in the Parish of St. Mark, was reclaimed from the foreshore, and is known as the Townland of the South Lots.

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### MERRION AND ITS CASTLE.

MERRION, now a suburb of Dublin, lying about three miles to the south-east of the city, on the coast, and intersected by the road to Blackrock and by the Dublin and Kingstown Railway, contains no building of earlier date than the eighteenth century. It was, however, for many generations the home of a family foremost amongst the landed proprietors in the metropolitan county, and the ground now occupied by the Asylum for the Female Blind, opposite Merrion Railway gates, was for several centuries the site of one of the principal mediæval castles in the neighbourhood of Dublin, the ruins of which were removed more than a hundred years ago.

The Fitzwilliams of Merrion, now represented by the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery (their descendant in the female line and the owner of their estates), were a family amongst whose members the sovereigns of England found many of their most

valiant liegemen and faithful adherents, and are also remarkable as being one of the few families in Ireland descended from early settlers which retained their property through all the troublous periods. The first of the house to come to Ireland are said to have arrived in the reign of King John, and to have been members of the great English family to which Earl Fitzwilliam, the inheritor of the Earl of Strafford's estates in Yorkshire and the County Wicklow, belongs—a statement which led the Fitzwilliams of Merrion in the seventeenth century to cease to use distinctive arms and to adopt those which Earl Fitzwilliam bears.

The fourteenth century saw the Fitzwilliam family firmly established in the southern portion of the County Dublin, and before long they rivalled in the extent of their possessions the monastic owners of Monkstown and Kill-of-the-Grange. In the fifteenth century they had acquired no less than four manors—those of Merrion, Thornecastle, Dundrum, and Baggotrath. The three former manors included the lands now known under the denominations of Merrion, Booterstown, Mount Merrion, Kilmaeud, Dundrum, Ballinteer, Donnybrook, Ringsend, Irishtown, Sandymount, and Sidney Parade, while the manor of Baggotrath embraced the lands on which Merrion Square, Fitzwilliam Square, and the adjoining streets now stand, as well as those forming a great portion of the Pembroke Township. Speaking in general terms, the property of the Fitzwilliams, which has come down in its entirety to the Earl of Pembroke, extended from Blackrock and Kilmaeud, where it joined the lands of the Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the Priory of the Holy Trinity, to Trinity College, then the Priory of All Saints, and to St. Stephen's Green, formerly portion of the estate of the Corporation of Dublin.

It was not until the beginning of the fifteenth century that the lands of Merrion, which then constituted a manor, came into the possession of the Fitzwilliams. These lands which lie within the franchises of the city of Dublin, and over which the Corporation had certain rights, appear to have been originally portion of the lands of Donnybrook, and to have been always held in conjunction with the adjoining manor of Thornecastle, which included the lands lying between Merrion and Blackrock. The first owner of Donnybrook and Thornecastle after the Anglo-Norman Invasion was Walter de Rideleford, Lord of Bray, who was given the greater portion of such of the lands to the south of Dublin as were not in

the possession of ecclesiastical establishments. He was a brave and noble warrior, who is said to have slain the leader of the Norwegian army which came to the assistance of the Irish when they were investing Strongbow's forces in Dublin, and in addition to the grant of lands to the south of Dublin, he was also given a large tract at Castledermot in the County Kildare. This warrior was succeeded by another owner of the same name, and it was not until 1244 that a Walter de Rideleford ceased to be identified with Thornecastle. By marriage with an illegitimate descendant of Henry I., the de Ridelefords had become connected with the reigning house, and also through the same alliance with many of the leading Anglo-Norman invaders, the founders of the houses of Fitzgerald, Fitzmaurice, and Carew.

The last Walter de Rideleford connected with Thornecastle had two daughters. One was twice married, first to Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, and, secondly, to Stephen de Longespée, sometime Justiciary or Viceroy of Ireland. The other married Robert de Marisco, who was son or brother of a successor of Stephen de Longespée's in the chief governorship. Robert de Marisco and his wife predeceased her father, and on the latter's death in 1244 his Dublin estates passed to their only child, Christiana de Marisco, who was then an infant. As an heiress she became a ward of the Crown, and the King, as was then customary, gave the custody of her lands and bestowal of her hand in marriage to a guardian, in her case one Fulk, of Newcastle; declaring, although she was then but two years old, that it was his intention she should become the wife of her protector. The royal decree was not infallible. Five years later she was under the care of Ebulo de Geneve, and described as his wife. Again man proposed but Providence disposed, and she escaped from the care of Ebulo de Geneve to retain her maiden name through life. She was on terms of intimacy with Eleanor of Provence, the widowed Queen of Henry III.; and, as she accompanied her royal mistress abroad after the Queen had taken the veil, she probably followed the example of her royal mistress in joining a religious community. This lady was possessed of great wealth, which she freely spent in the service of Queen Eleanor and her son, Edward I., and on being granted lands in England she assigned her Irish property to the Crown (1).

(1) Sweetman's Calendar, 1171-1284; "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," by James Mills, *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv., p. 163; "Song of Dermot and the Earl," edited by G. H. Orpen; Giraldi Cambrensis Opera in Rolls' Series; Lynch's "Legal Institutions in Ireland during the reign of Henry II.,"; Cokayne's "Complete Peerage," vol. i., p. 13; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xvii., p. 179, vol. xxxvi., p. 161; "Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey."

At the close of the thirteenth century the manor of Thornecastle was held from the King by William le Deveneis, who became one of the judges of Ireland, and was knighted. He began his official career in Ireland as Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and, subsequently, it was alleged, through the goodwill of an ecclesiastical viceroy whom he had placated by gifts of land near Coolock, obtained other offices. The custody of the King's demesnes in Ireland was committed to him, and he was given a grant of lands in the mountainous country adjoining the royal forest of Glencree. The profit from these he did not long enjoy. Until about the year 1290 the Irish and the Anglo-Norman invaders lived in comparative concord, but from that time constant warfare was carried on between the inhabitants of the hills, and those of the low lands. In a petition to the Crown William le Deveneis set forth that his tenants had fled, and although he was given authority to compel them to return, and to enclose his lands for the preservation of game, the lands near Glencree had to be given up as valueless, and he was obliged to fall back upon lands like those of Thornecastle nearer to the seat of government. From William le Deveneis the lands of Thornecastle passed to Walter de Islip, probably a kinsman of the Archbishop of Canterbury of that name, who flourished about the same time. Walter de Islip was an ecclesiastical pluralist who held amongst his benefices and dignities a cure of souls in the diocese of Norwich, the parish of Trim in the diocese of Meath, a canonry in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, a prebend in the diocese of Ossory, and the precentorship of Ferns Cathedral, as well as the lay offices of Chief Baron and Treasurer of the Irish Exchequer. From him the lands of Thornecastle passed, about the year 1320, to Robert de Nottingham, one of the wealthiest citizens of Dublin, and mayor of that city.

The earliest indication of the existence of a castle at Merrion is in 1334, when Thomas Bagod, a member of the family from which the district of Baggottrath derived its name, signed there a deed relating to the lands lying to the north-west of Merrion, now known as Simmonscourt. The lands of Thornecastle and Merrion had before that time come into Bagod's occupation, through his marriage to Eglantine, widow of Robert de Nottingham, and after his death a year or two later they passed to John, son of Matthew de Bathe, of the County Meath, who married a daughter of Robert de Nottingham. By John de Bathe the lands of Thornecastle and Merrion were in 1366 assigned to Sir John Cruise, the distinguished soldier and diplomatist, already mentioned as owner of the adjacent



lands of Stillorgan, and from the fact that he is described as of Merrion, and dated a deed there, Cruise appears to have resided sometimes in the castle. From him, at the beginning of the fifteenth century, the lands passed to the Fitzwilliams (1).

The first of the Fitzwilliams to become owner of the lands and manors of Merrion and Thornecastle was James, son of Hugh Fitzwilliam, whose near relatives were then seated at Dundrum and Swords, and his succession to them arose like that of the Derpatrieks to Stillorgan, from his marriage to a daughter of Sir John Cruise. About the year 1420 they passed to his son, Philip Fitzwilliam, and as the latter was then a minor the custody of his property and guardianship of his person was entrusted, after having been for a short time held by Hugh de Burgh, to James Cornwalsh, Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, who is stated to have met his death in the Castle of Baggotrath at the hands of a kinsman of Philip Fitzwilliam. On attaining to years of discretion Philip Fitzwilliam became involved in the events which preceded the Wars of the Roses, and took the side of the White Rose, or Yorkist party. In 1446 he is described as one of the counsellors of Henry VI., and a servant of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, the father of Edward IV. and Richard III., and is said to have rendered good service to the Crown, not only in Ireland against the enemies of the Pale, but also in England against the house of Lancaster. Philip Fitzwilliam was succeeded by his son Stephen, who in 1464, when residing at Merrion, entered into a contract with Dame Elizabeth Fleming, doubtless one of the Slane family, to marry her daughter by a previous marriage, Anne Cruise, on condition that the Cruises relinquished any right which they might have to his property. On Stephen Fitzwilliam's death his lands passed to his son James, charged with a jointure to his widow, who married, secondly, Robert Cusack; and as James Fitzwilliam was a minor they were for a time in the custody of guardians appointed by the Crown (2).

At the end of the fifteenth century the manor of Merrion came into the possession of the branch of the Fitzwilliam family seated

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(1) Sweetman's Calendar, 1252-1307; Judiciary, Memoranda, and Plea Rolls; "The Royal Forest of Glenree," by T. P. Le Fanu, *Journal, R.S.I.L.*, vol. xxiii., p. 274; Calendar of English Patent and Close Rolls; Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernice"; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxix., p. 74; Christ Church Deeds, Nos. 589, 741; Patent Rolls, pp. 27, 185.

(2) Memoranda Rolls; Patent Rolls, pp. 183-220.

on the lands of Dundrum. The latter lands had been assigned in 1365 to William, son of Richard Fitzwilliam, and were at the end of the fifteenth century owned by Thomas Fitzwilliam, the fifth in direct descent from him. In Thomas Fitzwilliam were combined the possession of large property, a liberal education, and high connections. When he had come of age in 1486, he had succeeded in addition to the manor of Dundrum to the manor of Baggotrath, and to other lands in the Counties of Dublin and Meath; and in order to fit himself for the care of his estates he went three years later to London to study law. His immediate ancestors had married into the houses of Perrers, Bellew, and Holywood—all families of importance in the Pale—and to the position and possessions which he inherited he added by his own marriage. His wife, Eleanor, daughter of John Dowdall, was, on her mother's side, a grand-daughter of Sir Jenico Dartasse, a wealthy native of Gascony, a country which in his time passed from English to French rule, who had settled in Ireland and married into one of the old Anglo-Norman families, the Plunketts of Killeen, and ultimately the Fitzwilliams inherited the greater portion of the Dartasse property.

There is a curious tale told of their succession to it. Thomas Fitzwilliam's mother-in-law married three times, her first husband being Thomas Barnewall, her second John Dowdall, and her third Rowland Eustace, Baron of Portlester, sometime Lord Chancellor and Treasurer of Ireland. She had by her last husband, amongst other children, three daughters, who married respectively Sir Maurice Eustace, Sir John Plunkett, and Sir Walter de la Hyde. On a certain occasion while these ladies, with their husbands, and Thomas Fitzwilliam and his wife, were searching in a house in Dublin for papers concerning their mother's estate, Sir Maurice Eustace discovered a deed by which their mother had settled her property on her heirs by her marriage to John Dowdall. This deed Sir Maurice Eustace secretly took away with him, and, as soon as they had parted from the Fitzwilliams, told the others its purport. Its provisions were considered unjust, and it was proposed that the deed should be burned. To such a course Sir Walter de la Hyde, in whose chamber in the White Friars' Monastery, near the modern Aungier Street, they were assembled, would not agree, but on the bell in the White Friars' Church beginning to toll he, being a pious man, went off to his devotions, and during his absence the deed was consigned to the flames. Of this his wife told him on his return, much to his sorrow and discontent. The

next Lent, "being sore moved in their conscience," the de la Hydes disclosed what had been done, and enabled the Fitzwilliams to obtain possession of the whole property—a service which the Fitzwilliams rewarded by allowing the de la Hydes to retain the portion then held by them.

Although sometimes described as of Merrion, both Thomas Fitzwilliam and his eldest son, Richard, who succeeded him on his death in 1517, appear to have made Baggotrath Castle their principal residence. The only record concerning Merrion in their time is a lease made in 1519 by Richard Fitzwilliam on his going to England of all his messuages and lands within that manor to a physician called Owen Albanagh. The lease reserves a rent of twelve marks besides the payment of an annual custom of herrings and other fish, and provides for the resumption of possession by the landlord on his return to Ireland.

Richard Fitzwilliam, who succeeded Thomas Fitzwilliam as his eldest son, and who married one of the de Bathes, was a most trusted adherent of Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, the father of Silken Thomas, who was connected with both the Fitzwilliams and the Eustaces, and acted as intermediary in the dispute concerning the Dartasse property. When the Earl was summoned to England to render an account of his government as Lord Deputy, Richard Fitzwilliam went in his train. To the Earl's influence was doubtless due the offices of honour and emolument which Richard Fitzwilliam held, including those of groom of the chamber to Henry VIII., seneschal of the royal manors near Dublin, and gentleman usher of the Irish Exchequer. His death took place in 1528, when he was still but a young man. His will shows him to have been a devoted son of the Church, and a man whose object it was to establish and perpetuate the position to which his family had attained. To the White Friars' Monastery in Dublin Fitzwilliam bequeathed an endowment for a priest to pray for him daily for ever, a legacy to repair the monastic buildings, the rent of certain lands until his heir came of age, and a gown of satin and a doublet of green velvet to make vestments; to the Church of Merrion (the site of which is indicated by the disused burial ground on the Blackrock Road) he left also a gown of camlet and a doublet of satin; and to his ghostly father his finest black hose. On his tomb in the Church of the White Friars he directed that a great marble stone should be laid with a brass engraved with representations of himself, his wife, and his children "after the custom of England." For his

children and for his brothers and sisters, including William, who rose to high favour at the English Court, Nicholas, who was in holy orders and held the dignity of Treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Alison, who married Christopher Ussher, a great grand-uncle of Archbishop James Ussher, and Margaret, who married William Walsh, of Carrickmines, he made ample provision.

The value of the Fitzwilliams' property was then vastly different to what it is in the present day. The only source of income, besides agriculture and the sale of rabbits, which abounded in the sandy lands, was the tribute from the fisheries along the shore from Blackrock to Ringsend; and probably as lay owners the Fitzwilliams did not derive so much profit from their property as their neighbours, the monastic owners of Monkstown and Kill-of-the-Grange, while their lands were equally liable to devastating raids from the hillsmen. They were, however, the principal residents and the largest lay landowners on the southern side of Dublin, and they acquired in the sixteenth century additional property which added to their importance and influence. Their loyalty to the Crown was conspicuous, and when the Reformation came they adopted the tenets of the Established Church, though in some instances their compliance with its teaching was formal. In the reign of Edward VI. it was found necessary to remind Nicholas Fitzwilliam, the Treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral, of the King's injunctions for godly and true order in the Church, and before the seventeenth century all the members of the family had reverted to the Church of Rome <sup>(1)</sup>.

Thomas Fitzwilliam, who succeeded, when about nine years old, his father, Richard Fitzwilliam, and who made the Castle of Merion his principal residence, was one of the most illustrious members of his family, and finally established the greatness of his house. Archbishop Loftus speaks of him as a man eminent in Ireland for his services to Church and State; and, for his bearing in the field against Shane O'Neill, Sir Henry Sidney, in the autumn of 1566, conferred on him at Drogheda the honour of knighthood. His father had committed the guardianship of his son's estates and person to his cousin, Patrick Finglas, sometime Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and to his father-in-law, Robert de Bathe, who was

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<sup>(1)</sup> Memoranda Rolls; Exchequer Inquisitions, Henry VIII., County Meath, No. 25, Dublin, Nos. 32, 44-46, 56, 57; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. ix., App., pt. i., p. 280; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1509-1572, p. 98; Lodge's Peerage, vol. iv., p. 308.



afterwards replaced by Christopher de la Hyde, one of the puisne judges in Finglas's Court, and though some self-interest is indicated in the fact that Finglas secured the hand of his ward for his daughter, the faithful discharge of the trust is apparent from Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam's successful career.

Like other proprietors of the Pale, he led a life in which the occupations of war were blended with those of peace. In compliance with the conditions under which he held his manor of Merrion, we find him serving in person with two mounted soldiers, and contributing towards the supply of carts in the expedition in 1556 against the Scottish invaders, and in those of 1560 and 1566 against Shane O'Neill. He also acted in 1560 as a commissioner for the muster of the Militia in Balrothery Barony, where he had acquired property, and in later years as constable of the Castle of Wicklow, which lay in the midst of the enemies of the Pale, whom it was then sought to subdue. Meantime civil affairs were not neglected by him; in 1559 he was returned to Parliament as one of the Knights of the Shire for the County Dublin, and in the same year appointed Vice-Treasurer of Ireland. He was also prothonotary of the Queen's Bench, Sheriff and Chief Guardian of the Peace in the metropolitan county (where he was granted in 1564 power to exercise martial law), senechal of the border lands inhabited by the Walshes, Harolds, and Archbolds; and on Wicklow being constituted a county he was appointed a commissioner to determine its limits.

To the English Court Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam made at least one visit, and the success which attended his petitions was probably largely due to the reputation of his uncle William. This uncle, who was reared in the house of one of the Fitzwilliams' tenants near Dundrum, was taken into the service of the great William Fitzwilliam, Earl of Southampton, then Lord Admiral of England, who appears to have acknowledged the Irish Fitzwilliams as kinsmen, and, as has been already mentioned, under Monkstown, in connection with Sir John Travers, whose sister he married, he became the Earl's trusted attendant. After the death of the Earl he became attached to the Court. He was appointed a member of the Privy Council and knighted by Edward VI., and is spoken of by Queen Elizabeth as a person who stood high in her esteem. His principal residence was at Windsor, where he was buried, but he kept up a connection with Ireland, where, while holding the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper, he was

given in 1537 the Manor of Celbridge in the county Kildare. In 1559, shortly before his death, he was returned to Parliament as one of the Knights of the Shire for the County Carlow.

For some time after he came of age Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam occupied, like his father and grandfather, Baggotrath Castle, and also the dissolved monastery of Holmpatrick, which he held by lease from the Crown and lent to the Earl of Sussex during his Viceroyalty. But in later life Merrion Castle became his constant residence. From Merrion in 1566 Sir Henry Sidney, after landing at Dalkey and spending the previous night in Monkstown Castle, made his entry as Lord Deputy into Dublin. A large portion of his lands was kept by Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam in his own hands, and in his will he bequeaths to his son, corn on the lands of Merrion, Booterstown, and Simmons-court, as well as at Holmpatrick. Besides the monastic lands of Holmpatrick he acquired also others at Kiltiernan belonging to St. Mary's Abbey.

During his time the Fitzwilliam family became closely allied with the Prestons, ennobled under the title of Gormanston; Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam being connected with Christopher, fourth Viscount Gormanston, in the most extraordinary manner. First his cousin, a daughter of Sir William Fitzwilliam, of Windsor, married Lord Gormanston, and his brother, Michael Fitzwilliam, of Donore, in the County Meath, Surveyor-General of the Crown lands, married Lord Gormanston's sister, then his eldest son married a daughter of Lord Gormanston, and finally his daughter, who had been previously married to a son of Sir John Plunkett, married Lord Gormanston as his second wife. Besides this son and daughter Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam had a son Nicholas, who settled at Baldungan, and a son Thomas, who was educated at Oxford, and who settled at Moylagh in the County Meath.

After Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam's death in 1591 his eldest son, Richard Fitzwilliam, occupied Merrion for five short years. He took an equally active part in defence of the Pale. For some time he was Constable of Wicklow Castle, and Warden of the Marches; and after he had succeeded to Merrion, in accordance with the terms of his tenure, he attended in person a great assembly of the Militia at Tara, accompanied by two armed men. His own outlying lands were still liable to the devastating raids of the hillsmen. For their protection he rebuilt the Castle of Dundrum, and, doubtless, the host of retainers, who appear in his will as recipients of such tokens of his remembrance as his best sorrel horse, his sorrel colt,

and his dun nag, could be relied on to guard when necessary the property of their master. Besides the Castle of Merrion he had a house in Dublin, but he died in the former place, and desired to be buried in the parish church of Donnybrook, directing that in the Chapel there belonging to his family a tomb or monument should be erected to their memory (1).

Thomas Fitzwilliam, who succeeded on the death of Richard Fitzwilliam, as the latter's eldest son, was destined to obtain the hereditary honours which his ancestors had earned by their valour and devotion to the throne, and was raised to the peerage by Charles I. as Baron Fitzwilliam of Thorncastle and Viscount Fitzwilliam



Thomas, 1st Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From a Portrait by Cornelius Janssen in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*



Margaret, wife of the 1st Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From a Portrait by Cornelius Janssen in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

of Merrion. When his father's death took place he was still a minor. About the time he came of age in 1602, he went to complete his education in London and entered as a law student at Gray's Inn. Three years later he married Margaret, daughter of

(1) Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1509-85; Manuscripts of Charles Haliday, published by Historical Manuscripts Commission; Christ Church Deeds, Nos. 411, 1227, 1332; Metcalfe's "Book of Knights," pp. 101, 206; Haydn's "Book of Dignities"; Return of Members of Parliament; Harris's "History of Dublin," p. 35; Lodge's Peerage, vol. iv., pp. 312-315; "The Description of Ireland in 1598," by Rev. Edmund Hogan, p. 37; Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses"; Exchequer Inquisitions, Eliz., Dublin, Nos. 246, 253.

Oliver Plunkett, fourth Baron of Louth, whose mother was one of the Bagenalls, then a most powerful family; and in the same year he was knighted by the Lord Deputy, Sir Arthur Chichester.

Some glimpses of life at Merrion are afforded us at this period. There we see Lord Fitzwilliam's mother, two years after her husband's death, in 1597, on a November day, declaring her last will by word of mouth and leaving all she had to her trusted brother-in-law, Thomas Fitzwilliam, of Moylagh. There in 1605, just about the time of Lord Fitzwilliam's marriage, William Fitzwilliam, of Jobstown, near Tallaght, where a branch of the family had settled, succumbed to the plague when himself only a few weeks married. And in 1608 the Lord Deputy's messenger for the conveyance of letters relates how he delivered to Lord Fitzwilliam's brother, at the hall door of Merrion Castle, an order requiring Lord Fitzwilliam to produce the body of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty, who was married to a sister of Lord Fitzwilliam's mother, and for whom Lord Fitzwilliam was a surety; and how on returning to town he met Lord Fitzwilliam at the cross roads at St. Stephen's Green riding home with his wife and eight attendants, and told him the mission on which he had been engaged.

Lord Fitzwilliam's father had broken an entail made by his father, Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, and in consequence Lord Fitzwilliam, during a great part of his life, was involved in litigation with his brothers and sisters. These included William, who married the widow of Primate Henry Ussher, and lived in the Castle of Dundrum; Christopher, who was the principal litigant; Patrick, who was in the army, and was killed in 1628 in a quarrel with Sir Robert Newcomen; Richard, who is described as of the Rock; Catherine, who married Henry Cheevers, of Monkstown; Mary, who married Lord Fitzwilliam's brother-in-law, the fifth Baron of Louth, and, secondly, Gerald Aylmer; and a sister, who married Patrick Cusack, of Rathaldron. The outlay which this litigation required was large, and was added to expenditure caused by his devotion to the throne. After his creation as a peer in 1629, money began to be lavished in the royal cause, and his lands in all directions became heavily encumbered, the mortgagees including the great money lender of the time, the Earl of Cork, who lent under the names of his relatives and friends, the Lord Chancellor Viscount Loftus, the Attorney-General Sir William Ryves, and the Solicitor-General Sir William Samback.



The rebellion of 1641 and the years which followed were for Lord Fitzwilliam a critical time; and the claims of family affection and loyalty to the King did not always indicate similar paths. The Prestons, who were amongst his dearest and closest relations, as a ring inscribed with the words "Remember Gormanston" reminded him, were prominent in the affairs of the Confederation at Kilkenny. But Lord Fitzwilliam kept himself free from the entanglements into which so many other Roman Catholic lords of the Pale fell; and, though it was not always possible for him to restrain his unruly dependents, he ever retained the esteem of that most loyal servant of the Crown, the great Duke of Ormonde, who speaks of him as being, by chance or situation of his fortune, a man in every way faithful in his allegiance to his sovereign. When some weeks after the outbreak of the Rebellion the Government found themselves in danger of being attacked before reinforcements arrived from England, Lord Fitzwilliam was one of the three lords of the Pale who ventured to obey the summons of the Lords Justices to consult on measures for the protection of the city of Dublin; and subsequently his Castle of Merrion was garrisoned by a company of soldiers. Thither in the following March, Sir Simon Harecourt was conveyed after he had received his mortal wound at the storming of Carrickmines Castle, and thence his body was carried for interment next day to Christ Church Cathedral.

A few months later, in June, the Castle was betrayed by the treachery of some of the garrison to a party of the rebels, and three hundred of them got in at a window before they were discovered. Owing to the rebels' want of ammunition the soldiers, some forty in number, were able to make good their escape by boat to Dublin, but the Castle was left completely at the mercy of its uninvited occupants. It was probably guests of a similar kind, or followers over whom Lord Fitzwilliam had no control, that three years afterwards despoiled and dismantled a barque laden with corn which was driven ashore at Merrion, and not, as the master alleged, persons acting under the direction of Lord Fitzwilliam's two youngest sons. Lord Fitzwilliam, who was occasionally to be seen attended by a tall young servant in a red cloak riding through his devastated estates, had no means of protecting his property or of restraining the excesses of his retainers. He went to England and tendered his services to the King, but they were not accepted. His only resource was a policy of inactivity, and when his own home

was invaded he sought refuge at Howth with his eldest son, familiarly known as Dickie Fitzwilliam, and his son's wife (1).

The year 1645 saw the appearance in Irish affairs of Lord Fitzwilliam's second son, Oliver, who succeeded him in his titles, and was created by Charles II. Earl of Tyrconnel. After completing his education in London, where, with his eldest brother, he had in 1628, like his father, entered at Gray's Inn as a law student, Oliver Fitzwilliam obtained, with the help of the Duke of Ormonde, about the year 1638, a commission as Colonel in the French Army, and took out to that country under his command 3,000 men recruited principally from amongst his own countrymen, with whom he was most popular. He came back to England in 1642 seeking four hundred more recruits, and, though he found it impossible to raise them in Ireland, he secured the required number and returned to France with them, and with his younger brother, William, eventually his successor in the titles, whom he appointed his lieutenant-colonel.

When Charles I.'s position became desperate, Oliver Fitzwilliam proposed to Queen Henrietta Maria, who was then in Paris, to go to his assistance, expressing a confident opinion that he would be able to induce the Kilkenny Confederates, provided their demands respecting the Roman Catholic religion were satisfied, to send 10,000 men to England to reinforce the royalist ranks. He had gained a great reputation as a brave soldier in the French wars, and the Queen, who would gladly have seen the privileges which the Confederates sought conceded, agreed to the terms which he placed before her, and recommended him to the King as a man deserving of every encouragement and zealously affected to the King's cause. He arrived in England shortly before the battle of Naseby, and there, under Prince Rupert, gave proof of his valour and martial skill. What the King said to him is not known, but he set out from Oxford, where the Court then was, in June, 1645,

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(1) Gray's Inn Admissions : Lodge's Peerage, vol. iv., p. 315, vol. vi., pp. 83, 168; Will of Jane Preston als. Fitzwilliam; Funeral Entry; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1606-1608, 1615-32; Chancery Decrees; "Lismore Papers," Ser. i., vol. iii., pp. 148, 175, 176, 212, vol. iv., pp. 183, 171; Chancery Inquisition, Char. i., Nos. 62, 64; Carte Papers, vol. cxviii., f. 14, vol. lxxviii., f. 383; Borlase's "History of the Irish Rebellion," pp. 73, 123; Manuscript Letters to and from Richard Boyle Earl of Cork, preserved in the Royal Irish Academy and also copies in British Museum, Egerton Manuscripts, vol. 89, p. 96; Depositions of 1641 (William Hodgson of Ringsend and William Rogers of Workington).

for Ireland, bearing a letter to the Duke of Ormonde, in which the King, while leaving everything to Ormonde's discretion, expressed the wish that Oliver Fitzwilliam's services should be accepted, and that Lord Fitzwilliam, although a Roman Catholic, should be appointed to the Irish Privy Council. It is said that the King promised also at that time to confer an English Earldom on Oliver Fitzwilliam's father.

When he arrived in Ireland Oliver Fitzwilliam found that the Duke of Ormonde had no authority to grant the concessions which the Confederates desired; and as he believed that by these means alone could reinforcements be obtained, he became an active agent in the negotiations carried on by Lord Glamorgan and Lord Digby. In the summer of 1646 he served under his uncle, General Thomas Preston, in the expedition of the Confederate Army against the Parliament forces in Connaught, where he is said to have particularly distinguished himself in the successful assault on Roscommon Castle; but, on the Confederates determining to advance on Dublin, and to compel the King's Government to concede their terms by force of arms, he resigned his commission, and determined to return to Paris. As a Roman Catholic Fitzwilliam was anxious that the fullest privileges should be granted to his Church, but he had repeatedly expressed his intention of living and dying in the King's service, and was not willing to assist his co-religionists except in the paths of diplomacy. Before leaving Ireland he addressed two letters to the Duke of Ormonde urging him to agree to the terms which Lord Glamorgan had proposed; he told him that General Preston was preparing to advance against Dublin with an overwhelming army, and warned him that if he attempted to compel the inhabitants round Dublin to adhere to him and come into the city his possessions at Kilkenny would be burned, and all found in Dublin, men, women, and children, put to the sword (1).

Lord Fitzwilliam had before that time returned to Merrión Castle, for the protection of which his son had been given, soon after his arrival from England, ten muskets out of the ordnance store, but when General Preston's advance upon Dublin was

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(1) Gray's Inn Admissions; Lodge's Peerage, vol. iv., p. 317; Cowper Papers published by Historical Manuscripts Commission, vol. ii., p. 216; Carte Papers, vol. xv., f. 88, vol. xvi., ff. 204, 368, vol. xvii., f. 182, vol. xviii., ff. 186, 440, 553, 562, vol. cxviii., f. 14; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. v., pt. i., pp. 7, 49, 352; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1633-1647; Calendar of Domestic State Papers, 1644-1647.

expected he received permission, as did also his son Richard, and his son William, who was then living at Dundrum, to seek neutral quarters at Leixlip, Luttrellstown, Howth, or Turvey, and to take with him all his retinue and goods. Lord Fitzwilliam was then reduced to a state of the most dire poverty. When the Duke of Ormonde was about to give up Dublin to the Parliament, in the following year, 1647, Lord Fitzwilliam wrote to him from Louth begging for payment of a small sum of £15 due to him for hay supplied for the army. Again in 1648, after the Duke of Ormonde had returned to Ireland, a proclamation calling upon all liege subjects to withdraw from the neighbourhood of Dublin, was made the ground of a petition from Lord Fitzwilliam for assistance, and, as he had no means of stocking lands if assigned to him, he was promised a pension of £100 a year. He had probably left his castle at Merrion, however, before that time, for it had been garrisoned by the Parliament, and in 1648 three officers, Major Cary Dillon, Lieutenant John Withers, and Ensign Thomas Davis, seven non-commissioned officers, and forty-seven soldiers, were quartered there.

Several of Lord Fitzwilliam's near relatives took a more active part than himself or his sons on the side of the Confederation. In the year 1650 his brother, Christopher, being then a sojourner in Carlow and on his death-bed, declared his last will, leaving all he possessed to the children of his brother, Richard, who had died before him. He had been actively engaged in trade between the Irish and English quarters during those troublous times, and probably sometimes used, on behalf of the Confederation, a sword, which he had obtained from Gormanston Castle, and which he desired his relatives, Robert Preston and Robert Finglas, a priest, to return <sup>(1)</sup>.

Oliver Fitzwilliam, after his arrival in Paris, had written to the Council of the Confederation, in February, 1647, in the most sanguine terms of the prospects of the royal cause, owing to dissensions which it was hoped would rend the Parliament, and recommended the Council to persist in the demand which they had made for the control of the churches, only advising them, as a matter of policy, to allow one church to be open in Dublin for the English religion. As a consequence of the middle course, which he adopted,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Carte Papers, vol. xiv., f. 63, vol. clxiv., ff. 24, 315, 341, vol. xxi., f. 325, vol. clxii., f. 51; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. viii., pt. i., p. 595; Will of Christopher Fitzwilliam.



he was the victim of much misrepresentation. The English said he was promising freely the offices of State to Roman Catholics, and giving out that the Confederation was so powerful that he wished there were 40,000 English and Scots in Dublin for them to defeat, while the Irish said he was a friend to the Duke of Ormonde's policy, and not faithful to his Church. During the two following years he doubtless exerted himself to uphold the failing royal cause, until the establishment of the Commonwealth and the arrival of Cromwell in Ireland rendered it hopeless (<sup>1</sup>).

His second marriage for he was twice married—had an important bearing on his position during the Commonwealth. His first wife, one of the Breretons of Malpas, in Cheshire, a relative of Sir William Brereton, who was created Baron Brereton of Leighlin, belonged to a royalist family; but his second wife, Eleanor,



**Eleanor, Countess of Tyrconnel.**

*From a Portrait by Sir Peter Lely in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

daughter of the first Earl of Clare, of the Holles creation, whom he married before 1647, belonged to a family identified with the Parliament cause, and through the influence of her brothers, John, second Earl of Clare, and Denzil Holles, her husband received more considerate treatment at the hands of the authorities than he would otherwise have met with. He owned property in Nottinghamshire

(<sup>1</sup>) Carte Papers, vol. lxxvii., f. 140, vol. xx., f. 294; Macray's "Calendar of Clarendon Papers in the Bodleian," vol. i., p. 364.

and Staffordshire, and had an interest in a charge, held by his first wife's mother (who had married, as her second husband, his uncle, Silvester Plunkett), on the Brereton estate in Cheshire. In November, 1649, he came to London, probably in order to look after these properties. He was then arrested by order of the Council of State, and all his books and papers seized; but after a few days' detention he was released, on undertaking to leave England in eight days. Two years later, when residing in France, he was given permission to return to England, and in consequence of exertions on the part of his wife was allowed to remain there on entering into a bond to be of good behaviour, for which his brother-in-law, the Earl of Clare, became surety.

Fitzwilliam ingratiated himself subsequently with Oliver Cromwell, and was said to be the only man of his nation in request in London. After the death of his father and of his eldest brother he was given, about 1655, a grant of their estates and permission to come over to Ireland to recover them. A great portion of the estates had been seized by the authorities of the Parliament and leased to their friends, including Merrion, which was held by a Mr. John Hughes; and for their recovery Oliver Fitzwilliam became a suitor to Henry Cromwell, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In a letter to Henry Cromwell, written from London in 1657, Oliver Fitzwilliam refers to the great obligations which he had conferred upon him, and, while declaring himself and his wife to be his Excellency's most faithful servants, offers to bring him a present of dogs and hawks on his return to Ireland. After the death of Oliver Cromwell he became an object of suspicion; and it is probable that with the improved prospects of the royalist cause, he was an active agent for the Restoration. In 1659 he was arrested, but on his giving his parole he was released, and his arms and horses restored to him, and during that winter he attended the meetings of a debating club established in London by James Harrington, the well-known author of *Oceana*, and took part in the discussions without interference <sup>(1)</sup>.

Immediately after the Restoration, Charles II. conferred upon Fitzwilliam the title of Earl of Tyrconnel—a title afterwards taken

<sup>(1)</sup> Calendar of Domestic State Papers, 1649-1659; Calendar of the Proceedings of the Committee for Compounding; Lodge's Peerage, vol. vi., p. 168; Cokayne's "Complete Peerage"; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxvii., pp. 162, 168, 169; Thurloe's "State Papers," vol. iii., p. 548; Crown Rental; "Memoirs of Edmund Ludlow"; Lansdowne Papers in British Museum, 821. ff. 272, 273; Aubrey's "Letters and Lives of Eminent Persons," vol. ii., pt. ii., p. 372.

also by James II.'s favourite, Richard Talbot—and was urgent that his estates should be given back to him without delay. The Earl was not, however, without enemies, and a letter calculated to do him injury was produced before the Commissioners under the Act of Settlement. It caused them to hesitate, and in 1663 the King indited a letter to the Duke of Ormonde, recommending the Earl of Tyrconnel to his care, and ordering that if it could not be effected by the ordinary course of procedure, some other way should be found of restoring the Earl to his property. As a result of this letter he was given a confirmation of his estates described under the denominations of Merrion, Ringsend, Baggotrath, Donnybrook, Simmonscourt, Dundrum, Ballinteer or Cheeverstown, Ticknock, Owenstown, Little Bray, Glencullen and the adjoining mountain townland of Ballybrack, Kilternan and Ballybetagh, Kilmacud, Thornecastle and Booterstown.

Merrion Castle, though much injured by the military occupation, still remained a substantial dwelling; and after additions and improvements had been effected by the Earl of Tyrconnel, it was assessed as a house containing sixteen hearths—a number which shows it to have been one of the largest dwellings in the County Dublin. On the second storey the arms of the family were engraved in stone, and the walls of the rooms were hung with tapestry, some of which belonged to Lady Tyrconnel's niece, the wife of the seventeenth Earl of Kildare, and was bequeathed by her to her aunt as a token of her love. It was in the castle that the Earl of Tyrconnel, who did not long enjoy his honours and possessions, died, and thence that his body was carried to the family burying place in Donnybrook Church, where a black marble tomb inscribed with his full titles was afterwards raised. The Countess of Tyrconnel survived her husband. She seems to have taken an active part in the management of her husband's estate; the names of her family are preserved in the names of the streets known as Clare Street, Denzille Street and Holles Street, and there is a letter extant from the Duke of Ormonde, while he was Lord Lieutenant, asking her to allow the Corporation of Dublin to cut sods on the lands of Merrion for a bowling green which it was intended to make at Oxmantown (1).

(1) Egerton Manuscripts in British Museum, 2618, f. 106; Report Irish Record Commission, vol. iii., pp. 58, 283; Fleetwood's Survey; Down Survey Map; Hearth Money Roll (City of Dublin); "Earl of Orrery's State Letters," vol. ii., p. 79; Russell and Prendergast's "Report on the Carte Papers," p. 184.

As no children survived him, the Earldom of Tyrconnel became extinct on the death of Oliver Fitzwilliam in 1667, but his brother, William, succeeded to the Viscounty of Fitzwilliam. In addition to performing the military service already mentioned, the third Viscount is said to have been Governor of Whitechurch and Lieutenant-General of Shropshire during the Civil War. He married one of the Luttrells, and his daughters, of whom he had five, married into Roman Catholic families, including the Brownes of Clongowes Wood, the Mapases of Rochestown, and the Nettervilles of Cruiceth. After the Restoration, during his brother's lifetime, he had resided in the Castle of Simmonscourt, and his death, which occurred in 1675, took place in Dublin in the parish of St. Nicholas Within. An account of his funeral expenses tells that on his death-bed he was attended by a doctor, apothecary, and surgeon, and ministered to by Roman Catholic clergymen, that rosemary and frankincense perfumed the chamber, and that his body was carried at night, while the bells of Christ Church Cathedral tolled, to Donnybrook Church, and there interred with all the pageantry that heralds could provide.



Thomas, 4th Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From a Portrait in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*



Mary, wife of the 4th Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From a Portrait in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

William's only son, Thomas, succeeded as fourth Viscount Fitzwilliam. He also was an earnest member of the Roman Catholic Church. During the rule of James II, he was given a seat on that



monarch's Privy Council, and appointed a Commissioner of the Treasury, and at the time of the siege of Limerick was in command of a troop of horse, which displayed considerable bravery in an encounter in Kerry with King William's forces. He was subsequently attainted, but the attainder was afterwards reversed, and in 1695 he appeared to take his seat in the Irish House of Lords. Although he took the oath of fealty, he was not willing to take the oath of adherence to the Established Church, and was obliged to withdraw. In the two marriages which he contracted freedom of opinion is displayed; his first wife being Mary, daughter of Sir Philip Stapleton, a distinguished officer under the Parliament, and his second wife a sister of the first Lord Rivers (1).

The beginning of the eighteenth century saw the removal of the seat of the Fitzwilliams to Mount Merrion, the Irish residence of the Earl of Pembroke, and under that place the remaining history of the family will be found. Thenceforward Merrion Castle fell more and more into decay, and the neighbourhood rapidly dwindled in importance. So deserted was it about the year 1729 that one of the leading Dublin journals of that day, *The Flying Post*, told a credulous public that Merrion was completely at the mercy of rats of an extraordinary size, as large as cats or rabbits, said to be partly indigenous and partly imported in foreign ships, which moved about in droves; and assured its readers that these outlandish animals had killed a woman and a child. The ruins of the Castle were visited by Austin Cooper, the painstaking antiquary, to whom reference has so often been made, in May, 1780, when he formed the opinion that the structure had been a piece of patchwork, part of it very old and part more modern, with limestone casements to the windows. The ground floor, used as a cowhouse, and some outlying buildings, used as a stable, were then standing. Two surly mastiffs prevented his making a sketch, and on returning some months later for that purpose he found to his surprise that the ruins were being removed, a work of no little difficulty, proving, as he remarks, the excellence of old Irish masonry (2).

(1) Lodge's *Peerage*, vol. iv., p. 318; Blacker's *Sketches*, p. 314; Hadyn's *Dignities*; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. x., App., pt. v., p. 161; Ball Wright's "Cusker Memoirs," p. 121, note; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. liv., p. 98.

(2) *The Flying Post*, May 16, 1729; Cooper's *Note Book*.

## BOOTERSTOWN AND THE BLACKROCK ROAD.

THE lands of Booterstown, or "The Town of the Road," lying to the south-east of Merrion, formed portion of the ancient manor of Thorncastle, which, as has been mentioned in the history of Merrion, was always held by the owners of that place.

The original name of the lands appears to have been Chocro or the Red Hill, a designation which also embraced portion of the demesne of Mount Merrion, but this, as early as the thirteenth century, gave place to the name of Thorncastle. At that period Thorncastle was a more important manor than Merrion, and in the time of Walter de Rideleford a castle stood upon the lands. This castle, which probably gave rise to the name of Thorncastle from its having been originally a rampart of earth protected by a thorn fence, was approached from Dublin by a bridge across the Dodder and by a highway which led directly from the bridge to the castle. It most likely stood near the town of Blackrock, as in the eighteenth century a bridge across the stream at the entrance to the town bore the name of Thorncastle Bridge. Sir William le Deveneis, after he had succeeded Christiana de Marisco, the granddaughter of Walter de Rideleford, in the possession of Thorncastle, petitioned the Crown in 1297 to grant him the fee of the lands which he then held on lease, and on the recommendation of a jury empanelled by the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, as it was found the Crown would thus have greater security for the rent, and the power of disposing of the wardship of the heir, if a minor, his request was complied with. A further application was made in 1306 by Sir William le Deveneis, who had meantime been appointed a judge, for privileges exercised by Christiana de Marisco and her ancestors of seizing wreck from the sea, and escheats found on the rocks, and also for the ownership of pools which possibly were artificially constructed fish ponds, on the coast from Blackrock to the river Dodder. But the jury to whom the question was referred expressed the opinion that only such persons as were licensed by Christiana de Marisco and her ancestors should of right enjoy these privileges, and said that as yet they had seen no pools. During Sir John Cruise's ownership of Merrion and Thorncastle, the latter manor suffered so much from the incursions of the inhabitants of the Wicklow mountains that he was allowed by the

Crown to hold it rent free for his life, but in James Fitzwilliam's time it was liable to a head rent of £5 8s. 8d., which in 1409 was assigned by the King to William de Marney and his son John, and in 1418 to John Coringham, Clerk of the Works and guardian of the King's Palace in Dublin (1).

The modern Booterstown occupies the site of the village in which the tenants on Thornecastle resided in the fifteenth century. After James Fitzwilliam's son, Philip, had succeeded to the property, during a severe incursion from the Irish enemies of the King, this village was completely destroyed and the tenants killed. A remission of rent from the Crown was then sought by Philip Fitzwilliam, in order not only to rebuild the village but also to erect a fortified castle for its defence and that of the surrounding country. In his petition, which was lodged in 1435, he points out that until the village was rebuilt there would be loss to the Crown of the rent as well as to himself of the profits of the lands. On condition that the castle was completed within four years, and that it was placed under the supervision of the Treasurer of Ireland, the prayer of his petition was granted. The building did not progress rapidly, and in 1449, when Philip Fitzwilliam was given a remission of all arrears of rent and permission to hold rent-free for life, it had only been begun. It was, however, subsequently completed, and vaults belonging to it are said to be incorporated in the house which stands upon its site, as indicated on the Ordnance Map. It is described in the seventeenth century as being in good repair, and a garden plot and grove of ash trees "set for ornament," then surrounded it (2).

The lands of Booterstown were amongst the property mortgaged by the first Viscount Fitzwilliam, and were assigned to Sir William Ryves, then Attorney-General for Ireland. The latter, with his brother, an ecclesiastical lawyer of note, had been brought from England by the well-known Sir John Davis, to whom he was related, and after a long tenure of the Attorney-Generalship, during which he represented in Parliament for some years the borough of Belturbet, he was appointed a Justice of the King's Bench—an office which he held until his death in 1648—and acted for a time

(1) Christ Church Deeds, No. 490; Blacker's Sketches, p. 166; Plea Rolls; Sweetman's Calendar, 1252-1307; Patent Rolls, pp. 156, 190, 212; also see for an attempt to reconcile the ancient and modern place names, a paper by Mr. P. J. O'Reilly, *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxxii., p. 178.

(2) *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxx., p. 310, note; Memoranda Rolls; Fleetwood's Survey.

in the high position of Speaker of the House of Lords. It was before him that Mr. Wolverston, of Stillorgan, was brought for examination in connection with the murder of Mr. Smithson; and he was on terms of intimacy with the Earl of Cork, his first loan to Viscount Fitzwilliam being made on the same day as one from his noble friend <sup>(1)</sup>.

The principal resident in Booterstown at the time of the Rebellion of 1641 was Mr. Thomas Fox, a gentleman farmer. In December of that year his stock was driven off by a party of the rebels, headed, as he alleged, by the Goodmans of Loughlinstown and the Rochforts of Kilbogget, and owing to the state of the country he was unable to pursue his avocation. In his deposition he set forth that he had lost 60 cows of English breed, valued at £360; and 15 horses, valued at £60; besides brass, pewter and other household stuff, and that the yearly profit from his farm was £100, and the value of the buildings and improvements £1,000. Subsequently, as appears from a deposition made in 1646, Fox was murdered near his own house. About the time of the Restoration the population of Booterstown was returned as 41 persons of Irish descent, inhabiting nine houses. With the exception of one occupied by Thomas Reyley, which had two chimneys, and another occupied by the smith, to which a forge was attached, these had only one fire-place each <sup>(2)</sup>.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century Mr. Richard Colley, who afterwards assumed the name of Wesley, and was created Lord Mornington, the grandfather of the great Duke of Wellington, had a small residence at Booterstown, which on succeeding to the Wesley property he assigned to Mr. Christopher Ussher, his first cousin, already mentioned as tenant under Christ Church Cathedral for the lands of Tipperstown. Mrs. Delany, who much admired the situation of Booterstown, describes a collation with every variety of wine, and the best of sillibub, of which she partook one afternoon in the spring of 1732 in the Ussher's house, and tells how she afterwards went to a dance, which lasted until an early hour next morning, at Mr. Wesley's, where she had more "peck and booze," as meat and drink were called in the fashionable slang of that day. About this time part of the lands of

<sup>(1)</sup> Chancery Inquisition, Car. i., No. 62; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. i., p. 72; Pedigree of the Ryves family, by G. D. Burtchaell in the *Irish Builder* for 1888, p. 139; Lismore Papers, Ser. i., vol. i., p. 256, vol. ii., p. 9, vol. iii., pp. 149, 254; Calendar of Carte Papers under date 8th Jan., 1669; Deposition of 1641 (Josiah Bishop, servant of Judge Ryves).

<sup>(2)</sup> Depositions of 1641 (Thomas Fox of Booterstown and John Higginson of Rathfarnham); Census of 1659; Hearth Money Roll.



Boosterstown were cultivated by a farmer called Isaiah Yeates, who grew corn of such superlative excellence that in two successive years a premium for the best wheat given by the Dublin Society—a body then in its infancy—was paid down on the nail to him, and in one of those years he sold in the public market 400 barrels of his wheat for 20s. a barrel, when the ordinary supply fetched from 14s. to 18s. (1).

The middle of the eighteenth century saw the transition of the neighbourhood from an agricultural to a residential locality. Bishop Pococke, the great traveller, mentions that in 1752 Lord Fitzwilliam was letting the lands of Boosterstown in small parcels



**Entrance to St. Helen's.**

*From a Photograph by F. P. Darcy.*

for building country houses. Bishop Pococke considered Boosterstown to have a most glorious situation. It was at this time that Merrion Avenue, which leads from Blackrock to the gates of Mount Merrion on the Stillorgan Road, and is unequalled in the metropolitan county for noble proportion and fine timber, and Cross Avenue, which connects Boosterstown with Merrion Avenue, were constructed.

St. Helen's, formerly called Seamount, now the handsome residence of Sir John Nutting, Baronet, was one of the first houses

(1) "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. i., p. 345; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 162, 409.

erected. It was built by Mr. Thomas Cooley, a popular barrister, and representative in Parliament for the borough of Duleek, who died in 1754, when the house was only a few years completed. In the nineteenth century it had several distinguished occupants, including the Right Hon. John Doherty, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and General Lord Viscount Gough. Sans Souci, the fine old residence of Mr. Joseph P. O'Reilly, D.L., was erected about the same time by the Lanesborough family, and was originally approached by the noble gateway in rustic work, which now forms the entrance of St. Helen's. The grounds of Sans Souci were laid out by a landscape gardener called Gabriel Griffin, who in 1769 mentioned a shrubbery and a wall for fruit trees, which he had constructed there, as proof of his capabilities. To Sans Souci, in 1781, Robert, third Earl of Lanesborough, brought his bride—a daughter of the Right Hon. David La Touche—the greatest beauty of her time, and there in 1806, having lived for many years in seclusion, owing to grief for her untimely decease, he died. Subsequently Sans Souci was occupied by Mr. James Digges La Touche, a man of singular piety (1).

Amongst other residents in Booterstown we find John, first Baron Knapton, ancestor of Viscount de Vesci, who was living there in 1746; Lady Anne Doyne, widow of Mr. Philip Doyne, of Wells, and a daughter of the first Earl of Arran, whose house at Booterstown was sold in 1766; the Venerable Edward Wight, Archdeacon of Limerick, who was placed in 1771 on the Commission of the Peace for the County Dublin when living at Villa Wight, near Booterstown; the Countess of Brandon, a peeress in her own right, admired for “genuine wit, elegance of taste, dignity of manners, and superior understanding,” who died in 1789 in her house in Booterstown Avenue; Sir Samuel Bradstreet, a Baronet, Recorder of Dublin, and subsequently a Justice of the King's Bench, who entertained the Lord Lieutenant and a distinguished party in 1788 at his villa near Booterstown; the Earl of Roscommon, who was living at Booterstown in 1804; and the Right Hon. James Fitzgerald, the silver-tongued Prime Serjeant, well known for his part in the Union debates, who died in 1835 at Cherbury (2).

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(1) “Pocockes' Irish Tour,” edited by Professor G. T. Stokes, p. 163; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 29, 195, 201, 237, 247, 414; *Universal Advertiser*, No. 124; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lxvii., No. 6822; Leases in Registry of Deeds; Will of Thomas Cooley; Gilbert's “History of Dublin,” vol. i., p. 24.

(2) *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. liv., No. 102, vol. lxiii., No. 6474, vol. lxviii., No. 7025; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 95, 178, 181, 193, 241.

The Blackrock Road was during part of the eighteenth century in a dangerous state, and had an uneuiviable reputation as the resort of highwaymen. Owing to the absence of a protecting wall the Rev. Thomas Heany, soon after his appointment as Curate of Monkstown, narrowly escaped meeting his death owing to his horse backing his gig over a precipice at the edge of the road near Booterstown, and the Hon. Colonel Loftus' coachman, when proceeding home to Killiney, was attacked near there by no less than four footpads. About 1781 horse races, which were held near Booterstown, were a source of annoyance to the inhabitants, and in that year they were stopped by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who sent the Sheriffs, "with a proper guard," to take down the tents and to prevent the horses running (1).

The popularity of Blackrock led to the erection of many villas between Booterstown and that place. Amongst these was Willow Park, which at the time of the Union was the residence of Hugh Viscount Carleton, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, already mentioned in connection with Brenanstown, and afterwards of the first Viscount Mountmorres. Williamstown, a small group of houses, principally known through its occupation by the French College, assumed its present appearance about 1780 under the improving hand of Counsellor William Vavasour, whose name is still preserved in the Beggar's Bush district. One of the houses occupied by the French College, originally called Castle Dawson, was then the residence of the Hon. James Massy Dawson, second son of the first Baron Massy, whose descendants, until lately, continued to own it; and at the time of the Rebellion of 1798, when the inhabitants of Williamstown displayed great loyalty, Lieutenant-General James Stewart, to whose memory there is a tablet in Monkstown Church, was a resident (2).

(1) *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xl., No. 52, vol. lxiii., No. 6544; Newspaper Cuttings relating to Ireland in the British Museum.

(2) Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. i., p. 197; Lease in Registry of Deeds Office; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 84, 85, 187, 192, 210, 431, 474; Post Chaise Companion; Burke's "Landed Gentry," under Massy Dawson of New Forest.

The Viscounts Mountmorres are buried in Monkstown graveyard, and there is in Monkstown Church a mural tablet to Lieutenant-General Stewart bearing the following inscription:—"Inscribed to the memory of Lieut.-General James Stewart, late Lt.-Col. of His Majesty's 5th or Royal Irish Regiment of Dragoons, who departed this life in Dublin 1st May, 1798, aged 58 years, much beloved and lamented by Miss Jane Stewart his beloved daughter. This monument is erected by Major Maxwell of the 7th Dragoon Guards, the nephew and late aide-de-camp to the General, in token of their love and regard."

Near Merrion Avenue, on what was then part of the lands of Booterstown, three villas worthy of notice were erected in the latter half of the eighteenth century. These were known as Lisaniskea, Fort Lisle, and Frescati. Lisaniskea, which is still to be seen, was the home of Lady Arabella Denny, widow of Mr. Arthur Denny, M.P. for the County Kerry, and daughter of the first Earl of Kerry, the foundress of the Magdalen Asylum in Leeson Street. She has been described as a most agreeable and extraordinary woman, and spent her means in the alleviation of distress and suffering. At Lisaniskea her nephew, the Earl of Shelburne, sometimes sought repose from the cares of State, and there a few years before the close of her long life, Lady Arabella Denny was



View of Vauxhall Gardens, Blackrock.

*From a Plate in "The Sentimental and Masonic Magazine."*

visited in 1783 by John Wesley, who speaks of Lisaniskea as an earthly paradise <sup>(1)</sup>. Fort Lisle, which stood where the upper bank of the People's Park now lies, was then the residence of John, first Lord Lisle, whose penurious habits gave great opportunity to the satirists of his time. After his death in 1781 the house was occupied by his widow, whose brother, Admiral Matthew Moore, died in 1787 at Blackrock, ordering his body to be interred at low-water mark in the strand, and by his son-in-law, Mr. John Travers.

<sup>(1)</sup> Blacker's Sketches, pp. 171, 231; Lansdowne Papers, British Museum Add. MS., 24,137, vol. i., f. 118; "Essays from the Batchelor, by Geoffrey Wagstaffe," p. 191.



In 1793 the house and grounds were turned into a place of public recreation under the name of Vauxhall Gardens, which were said, in the language of that period, to have crowned "the fascinating vicinity of Blackrock with a resistless charm" (1). Frescati, which remains, but in an altered form, was built as the seaside residence of the Leinster family, and was said to be one of the best mansions in Ireland. There Lord Edward FitzGerald exercised his taste for horticulture, there the Dowager Duchess of Leinster gave splendid entertainments, and there, amongst temporary residents, we find Sir Henry Cavendish, who, while a member of the English House of Commons, reported for his amusement the speeches made during an entire Parliament, and his wife, who was created a peeress as Baroness Waterpark (2).

## SIMMONSCOURT.

SIMMONSCOURT, a district to the north-west (or opposite side to Booterstown) of Merrion, forming portion of the populous Pembroke Township, exhibits as the only relic of its ancient state a fragment of a fortified building in the grounds of the modern Simmonscourt Castle. The ruins were in the eighteenth century much more considerable, and when visited by Austin Cooper in 1780 a staircase of 38 steps was intact (3).

During the days of invasion by the Black Danes and their Scottish allies, the lands within the confines of Simmonscourt were the scene of a fearful massacre. This was proved by the discovery, more than twenty years ago, on the southern side of the modern Ailesbury Road, near Seaview Terrace, of a vast quantity of human remains which the late Dr. William Frazer, in an exhaustive paper read before the Royal Irish Academy, describes at length. Those slain included men, women, and children to the number of six hundred persons, and from the condition of the remains Dr. Frazer was of opinion that they had been killed in cold blood, and not in battle. Only one of the invaders, a chief, who was found buried apart, with a Danish sword by his side, and two women at

(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 81, 173, 190; "Essays from the Batchelor, by Geoffrey Wagstaffe," pp. 21, 26, 130, 184.

(2) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 193, 194; Moore's "Life of Lord Edward Fitzgerald," vol. i., pp. 226-239; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. ix., p. 348.

(3) Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland," vol. i., p. 21; "The Lesser Castles of the County Dublin," by E. R. M'C. Dix in *The Irish Builder*, for 1897, p. 65; Cooper's Note Book.

his feet, appears to have fallen, his death being due to a sword wound on his head. Dr. Frazer conjectured that the remains were those of inhabitants of the coast who had fled before the fierce invaders by a road which led from Merrion to the ford at Donnybrook, and that, possibly stopped by floods, they had been overtaken, and, after making feeble resistance, had been ruthlessly slaughtered (1).



**Simmonscount Castle in 1792.**

*From an Engraving in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland."*

The lands of Simmonscount, as originally constituted in the thirteenth century, divided the lands of Merrion from those of Donnybrook and Baggotrath, and were described as a carucate of land in Donnybrook near the highway from Dublin to Thorncastle, extending from the Dodder Bridge to the meadow of Merrion. The lands then belonged, like those of Merrion and Booterstown, to Walter de Rideleford, and by him they were granted in 1238 to Frambald FitzBöydekyn, who is described as a resident on the de Rideleford's property in the County Kildare. Twenty years later John Frambald, son of the original lessee, conveyed the lands at the rent of a pair of gloves to Richard de St. Olof, a citizen of Dublin, and from the latter they passed, through the marriage of

(1) *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Polite Literature, Second Series, vol. ii., p. 29.*

his daughter, Margery to one of the house, into the possession of a family called Morville. In their time a charge was executed on the lands in favour of Thomas Bagod, then the owner of Merrion, and later on his successor in Merrion, Sir John Cruise, exercised some right over them.

The name Simmons-court, or, as it was formerly spelled, Smothes-court, is derived from a family called Smothe, who appear in the fourteenth century as the successors of the Morvilles. There were two owners, father and son, called Thomas Smothe, and the lands afterwards passed through the hands of several other persons. We find amongst those dealing with them, in 1379, John Mynagh, a chaplain; in 1382 Robert Serjeant; in 1386 Roger Kilmore, who leased to three carpenters his lands in Donnybrook, excepting a little park, a dove-cote, and an acre of meadow; and in 1391 John Drake, who was Mayor of Dublin, and displayed during his term of office great valour as leader of an expedition against the Irish enemies of the King in the wilds of the Wicklow Hills. By John Drake the lands were assigned, on condition that prayers should be offered for himself and his relations, to the Priory of the Holy Trinity, and from that time until the nineteenth century the lands remained ecclesiastical property, and were held under the Priory and its successor, the Cathedral of Christ Church, by the Fitzwilliams of Merrion (1).

Places for public amusements stood upon the lands; and in a sixteenth century lease to the Fitzwilliams, the keeping and profits of the courts are reserved to the landlords. On Easter Monday, or Black Monday, as it was called on account of the dreadful slaughter of the citizens which had taken place on that day at Cullenswood, the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral and his servants came to Simmons-court for an annual outing and the tenant was bound to receive them in the chief house, occupied about that time by one Gerald Long, described as a gentleman, and to extend hospitality to them. A rabbit warren planted with ash and aspen trees is mentioned in the lease, and also a dove-cote, which the tenant was bound to stock with pigeons, and of which the landlords, who were to share the stock with the tenant, were to have a key. With the lands of Simmons-court were held lands called Colcot, which had been released in 1336 by Sir Elias Ashbourne to Thomas Smothe (2).

(1) Christ Church Deeds under Donnybrook and Simmons-court; Blacker's Sketches, p. 362; "Obits and Martyrology of Christ Church."

(2) Christ Church Deeds.

A bridge across the Dodder known as the bridge of Simmonscourt existed in the beginning of the seventeenth century, but was much out of repair in 1640, when the sum of £10 was voted by the Corporation of Dublin for its restoration. At the time of the rebellion of 1641 the lands of Simmonscourt, then occupied by George Hill, were spoiled and laid waste by, as was alleged, dependants and tenants of Viscount Fitzwilliam. The widow of George Hill, who appears to have lost his life in the hardship of those times, deposed that thirty cows of English breed, seven heifers, and eight horses, besides a quantity of corn, had been carried off, and that some of the cattle were taken to Kiltiernan and there killed on lands owned by Viscount Fitzwilliam. During the Commonwealth the lands of Simmonscourt, which were returned as occupied by seven English and fifteen Irish inhabitants, were held by a Mr. John Weaver. After the Restoration the Earl of Tyrconnel's brother and successor, William Fitzwilliam, resided in the castle, which had four chimneys, the only other householders being one Thomas Parker, a poor widow, and James the carman. At the close of the seventeenth century the Castle of Simmonscourt was in ruin, and the lands were held under Christ Church by the Mossoms, already mentioned as tenants under the Cathedral for Tipperstown (1).

The beginning of the eighteenth century saw a house at Simmonscourt, which was the residence at the time of his death, in 1734, of Arthur Forbes, second Earl of Granard, the father of the distinguished naval commander and diplomatist, who succeeded him in the title as third Earl, and which possibly had been previously occupied by Mr. Samuel Adams, who in 1720 was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the County Dublin, and was described as of Simmonscourt. Subsequently the Honble. Richard Mountney, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, had a house there. In 1791 a bridge of three arches was erected across the Dodder on the site of the present Ball's Bridge, and known by that name; it was replaced in 1835 by the existing structure. Towards the close of the eighteenth century Counsellor Whittingham and Mr. Trulock are mentioned as the chief residents at Simmonscourt (2).

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(1) Gilbert's "Ancient Records of Dublin," vol. iii., p. 372; Depositions of 1641 (Mary Hill of Simmonscourt); Poll Tax Return; Crown Rental Roll; Blacker's Sketches, p. 405.

(2) *Dublin Weekly Journal* for 1734, pp. 112, 116, 140; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xxxi., No. 55; Magistrates' Warrants in Public Record Office; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 82, 95, 192, 408; McCready's "Street Names of Dublin"; Post Chaise Companion; *Dublin Journal*, May 7-11, 1745.



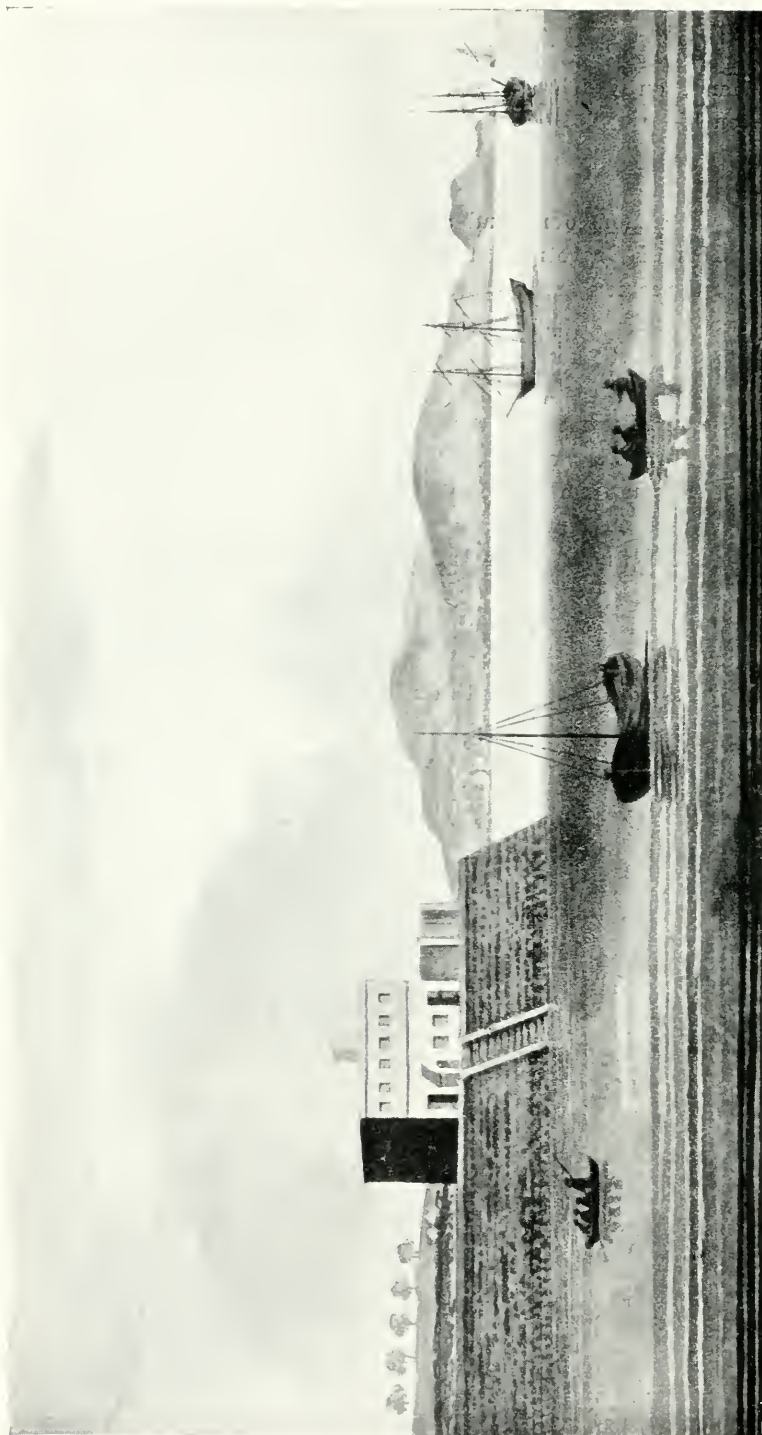
## SANDYMOUNT.

THE land, on which the suburb of Sandymount stands, lying between Simmonscourt and the sea, was in the sixteenth century a rabbit warren called the Scallet Hill, which was covered with furze. It had belonged to Richard de St. Olof, the original owner of Simmonscourt, and after passing through the hands of the owners of Baggotrath, the Bagods, and the Fitzwilliams, it came, at the same time as Simmonscourt, into the possession of the Priory of the Holy Trinity. Subsequently this area, together with the land along the shore, now covered by Strand Road and Sidney Parade, and then described as the great pasture by the sea, or the rabbit warren, became the property of the Fitzwilliams of Merriou. The blind rabbit warren and the marsh near Simmonscourt are at the same time mentioned, and in the seventeenth century the upper and lower marsh are referred to, as well as places in the neighbourhood known then as the court of the sallies, the ridge of the brambles, the little field, and the furze park. A herring fishery occupied the shore from Merriou to Ringsend, and from it the Fitzwilliams received a toll of 500 choice herrings. During the early part of the eighteenth century the soil was found suitable for the manufacture of bricks, and the sea border from Merriou to where Sandymount now lies, was occupied by what were known as Lord Merriou's brickfields. A village called Brickfield Town sprang up, and not far from it, by the sea, there was a pretty thatched inn called the Conniving House, kept by one Johnny Macklean, renowned for its fish dinners and excellent ale. These at the close of the eighteenth century gave place to the modern Sandymount, which has now become almost merged in the metropolis (1).

## RINGSEND.

RINGSEND, or the end of the point, came into notice in the seventeenth century as a landing place for passengers bound for Dublin. As has been already related, Dalkey was from the time of the Anglo-Norman conquest until the sixteenth century the port of the metropolis for merchandise as well as passengers, but with the increasing traffic of the Elizabethan period the Dublin merchants

(1) Christ Church Deeds; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 74, 186, 406.



Entrance to the Port of Dublin in 1795.  
*From a Plate drawn by F. Jukes.*

found it more convenient, notwithstanding the difficulties and delay attendant on the navigation of the Liffey, to discharge their ships near their places of business. With the merchandise came the passengers, for vessels then served alike for both purposes, and as the ships had often to lie for days at anchor close to Ringsend before the tide permitted of their coming up the river, it became the custom to put passengers on shore and to take them on board at Ringsend. Although exigencies of weather and convenience caused Dunleary, Howth, and Skerries to be occasionally used, Ringsend was, from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, when the construction of Howth Harbour and Kingstown Harbour caused another diversion, the chief place of embarkation and disembarkation for passenger traffic.

The increasing traffic to Dublin in the reign of Queen Elizabeth led the Corporation in the year 1582 to take steps for the erection of a fort at Ringsend, in order to secure the dues which they charged ships using the port. In the reign of James I. violations of the revenue laws had become so frequent, owing to the distance of the Custom House, then situated on Merchants' Quay, from Ringsend, that it was decided in 1620, on the advice of a customs officer called Thomas Cave, to station a revenue surveyor permanently at Ringsend. A house was built there for his accommodation, and as a reward for his assiduity in this and other business, Thomas Cave became its first occupant. The number of ships which lay near Ringsend, even in the early part of the seventeenth century, may be estimated from the fact that during a great storm in the winter of 1637, in one night, no less than ten barques "of the most part whereof never no news hath been heard since" were carried away from their anchorage there. Needless to say, Ringsend soon became a busy village. At the time the surveyor's house was built so worthless was the land considered that the permission of the lord of the soil was not obtained before its erection, and it was not for some years that Viscount Fitzwilliam made an application for compensation, but when the Restoration came Ringsend had a population of 59 persons of English and 21 persons of Irish descent, and the adjoining village of Irishtown one of 23 persons of English and 75 persons of Irish descent (1).

(1) Gilbert's "Ancient Records of Dublin," vol. ii., p. 168; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1615-1625, pp. 390, 337; 1625-1632, p. 567; Blacker's Sketches, p. 402; Roll Tax Return.

At the time of the establishment of the Commonwealth, Ringsend was almost surrounded with water, which spread on its western side over the low ground between Irishtown and Beggar's Bush, at that time a wood, and a great resort of robbers. It could only be approached from Dublin at low tide by means of a ford across the Dodder, but a bridge was then constructed across that river and measures were taken to keep the water within its channel.



Beggar's Bush in 1802.

*From a Plate in "The Literary and Masonic Magazine."*

This bridge was afterwards demolished, as the erratic John Dunton tells us in connection with a ramble he took to "that dear place," Ringsend, and in order to cross the river it was necessary to employ vehicles known as Ringsend cars—the predecessors of those described under the history of Blackrock—which consisted of a seat suspended on a leather strap between two shafts, and were remarkable for the creaking which the leather made. Shortly after the Restoration in 1665, while the Earl of Ossory was acting as Lord Deputy for his father, the Duke of Ormonde, races for these cars were held on the strand, and in presence of 5,000 spectators twenty-five of them competed for prizes offered by the Lord Deputy <sup>(1)</sup>.

Of the great historical events of the seventeenth century Ringsend saw its share. From it set out for England in 1614 Lord

<sup>(1)</sup> Haliday's "Scandinavian Kingdom of Dublin," p. 234; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 57, 67, 403; Fiant Elizabeth No. 2341.



Deputy Chichester, and to it rode in 1626 Robert, first Earl of Westmeath, erstwhile rebel but then a royal favourite, to embark for the English Court. There landed in 1646 the soldiers who accompanied the Commissioners sent by the Parliament to treat with the Duke of Ormonde, then holding Dublin for the royal cause, and there and in the neighbouring villages of Lazar Hill and Baggotrath they remained in neutral quarters until on the unsuccessful termination of the negotiations they re-embarked for the North of Ireland. In Ringsend in 1648 was stationed a company of the Parliament army, including Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Ferneley, Lieutenant Francis Tour, Ensign Robert Walsh, seven non-commissioned officers, and sixty-eight privates, and there in the following year, before the Battle of Rathmines, a detachment of royal soldiers from the Duke of Ormonde's camp at Finglas defeated the garrison. At its port later in the year 1649 landed Oliver Cromwell with his conquering army, and to it came in 1655, rowed up in boats from Dunleary, where the men-of-war lay, Henry Cromwell and his retinue on his arrival to assume the Chief Governorship of Ireland. There after the Restoration in 1670 landed Lord Berkeley on his appointment as Viceroy, and in 1671 waited for a favourable wind to cross to England some officers of the Irish Guards ordered to answer at court a charge of mutinous conduct. Thence escaped in 1683, after lying concealed there for some days in a tavern called the King's Head, the famous gang of robbers, the Brennans, who are said to have carried off property to the value of £12,000. There arrived in 1689 officers and soldiers of the English army to join the standard of James II., and there in the following year, that monarch on riding down from Dublin, saw his ships driven ashore by a sea force of William III. under the command of Sir Cloudesley Shovel. And thence sailed in 1691, escorted to the water side by the Lords Justices and many of the military and gentry, William III.'s favourite General, Godert de Ginkel (1).

The condition of the port of Dublin, then only navigable by vessels of from fifty to one hundred tons' burden, can now hardly be realised. At high tide the water spread over a great area, coming

(1) Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1625-1632, p. 104; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xli., p. 266; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. x., App., pt. vi., p. 165, Rept. xii., App., pt. vi., p. 189; Manuscript in Trinity College Library, F. 3, 18; "A great Victory obtained by the Marquesse of Ormond and the Lord Inchiquen against the Parliament's Forces," London, 1649, preserved in the Academy Tracts in Royal Irish Academy; Calendar of Domestic State Papers, 1671-1672, p. 27; Carte Papers, vol. xl., f. 170; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 56, 66, 67, 69.

up on the south side to the line of Deuzille Street, Great Brunswick Street, Townsend Street, and on one occasion even to Merrion Square, and at low tide the Liffey made its way to the sea by devious courses through a labyrinth of sands. Near Ringsend the ships lay at low water on the hard sand, and were exposed to every wind. Much of the merchandise was carried from the ships in litters, and the annual expenditure on the conveyance of passengers from Ringsend to Dublin was estimated at not less than £500, a large amount in those times. The unsatisfactory state of the port is first shown in 1673 in a survey made by Sir Bernard de Gomme, the most famous military engineer of his day, for a great citadel which he proposed should be erected at a cost of some £130,000 on ground in the neighbourhood of the modern Merrion Square, but in the following year it is treated of in the most exhaustive manner, in a report drawn up at the request of the Lord Mayor, Sir Francis Brewster, by Andrew Yarranton, one of the earliest political economists and pioneers of inland navigation. The latter proposed as a remedy that locks, such as he had seen in Holland, should be constructed at the mouth of the Liffey, and that cuts or canals, in which the ships could float, with warehouses and a military storehouse on their banks, should be made in the slob land, which then lay between Ringsend and Lazar Hill or Townsend Street <sup>(1)</sup>.

Although attempts were made in 1676 by one Henry Howard, and in 1698 by the Corporation of Dublin, to found a ballast office, it was not until 1707 that corporate powers for the preservation and improvement of the port of the Irish metropolis were conferred by Act of Parliament. From that time operations for clearing and widening the channel were actively carried on. Lighters were employed to deepen the bed of the river, the enclosing of the ground on the south side of the river was undertaken, and surveys for piling below Ringsend to keep the sand within bounds were ordered. About the year 1717 the piling, strengthened by a wooden framework filled with stones, commenced, and was carried on to near the site of the Poolbeg lighthouse. The piling and framework soon decayed, and the construction of the South Wall, on which the Pigeon House stands, was commenced. Before the year 1755 it had reached as far as the site of the fort, and before the year 1796 the extension to the Lighthouse was completed—the successful

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<sup>(1)</sup> Blacker's Sketches, pp. 148, 187, 335; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxii., p. 103, vol. lxiii., p. 284.

conclusion of the work being largely due to the indefatigable exertions of Viscount Ranelagh, to whose prominence in the public affairs of his day reference has already been made in connection with his residence at Monkstown. At the end of the piles, in 1735, a vessel with a lantern at her mast head was placed, and this was the only guide for ships entering the port until 1767, when the Poolbeg Lighthouse first showed its light. That structure was commenced in 1761, and has remained, as a writer of that period predicted, "a lasting testimony of the ability, no less in design than in execution, of the undertaker, Mr. John Smith" (1).



The Lighthouse on the South Wall.

*From a Plate preserved in the British Museum.*

Ringsend at the beginning of the eighteenth century is described as being a clean, healthy and beautiful village, with houses on the walls of which vines were trained; and later on Mrs. Delany speaks of Ringsend, where she went to buy shells for her grotto, in connection with a description of the environs of Dublin which aroused her admiration. It was then inhabited, in addition to seamen, by officials belonging to the port of Dublin, and for their convenience, as the Parish Church of Donnybrook was often inaccessible owing to floods caused by rain and high tides, the Royal Chapel of St. Matthew, commonly known as Irishtown Church, was erected, in

(1) Blacker's *Sketches*, pp. 24, 53, 54, 71, 74, 79, 178, 181, 408, 416, 420; Haliday's "Scandinavian Kingdom of Dublin," pp. 241-247.

what was then an adjacent village. The shore near Ringsend was famous for shrimps and cockles, and there was also an oyster bed, the produce of which could be partaken of in their purity at the sign of "the Good Woman," and these good things, as well as horse races and sea-bathing, made the place a favourite outlet for the citizens of Dublin. As the port improved the Lords Lieutenants usually embarked and disembarked at Lazar Hill or George's Quay, but occasionally they did so at Ringsend. Thus we find landing there in 1709 Thomas, Earl of Wharton; in 1737, William, Duke of Devonshire; in 1761, George, Earl of Halifax; in 1763, Hugh, Earl of Northumberland, who spent some hours in the Surveyor's House before proceeding to Dublin, and ordered £10 to be distributed amongst the poor of Ringsend; and in 1765, Francis, Earl of Hertford <sup>(1)</sup>.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century Ringsend is said to have been in a very melancholy condition and to have resembled a town which had experienced all the calamities of war. Overwhelming floods from the mountains had descended upon it, and as they had carried away the bridge over the Dodder which had been rebuilt in 1727, the inhabitants were cut off from direct communication with Dublin except by means of a narrow and dangerous wooden structure. A drawing of this temporary erection made by a contemporary of Francis Grose, John James Barralet, is here reproduced. It has been pronounced to have artistic merit, and a critic has said that there is considerable vitality if no very literal truth in the figures which enliven it. A new stone bridge described as of handsome design was afterwards in 1789 erected at the small cost of £815, a misplaced economy, to which was due, doubtless, its destruction in turn in 1802 by another disastrous inundation <sup>(2)</sup>.

After the construction of the South Wall, or Pigeon House Road, vessels began to start from the point where the Pigeon House stands. This building, now the Electric Lighting Station of the Corporation of Dublin, and until recently a fort and military barracks, derives its name from a wooden house which was built early in the eighteenth century on the piles near its site. This

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<sup>(1)</sup> "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. iii., p. 95; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 70, 74, 79, 146, 166, 412, 416, 417, 423.

<sup>(2)</sup> Blacker's Sketches, pp. 81, 87, 427; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. iii., p. 273.





The Ringsend Bridge in 1787.  
*From a Drawing by John James Barrellt preserved in the British Museum.*

house was called Pidgeon's House from its occupation by a watchman of the name of Pidgeon, and became a well known place of resort for boating parties from Dublin. To his ordinary occupation Pidgeon added the supply of refreshments to such as visited his sea retreat, and so many came that he eventually set up a boat himself for the conveyance of his customers to and from the shore. When the piles were superseded by the South Wall a stone dwelling, at first known as the Block House, took the place of Pidgeon's abode, and the Lords Justices, with the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Directors of the Ballast Office, on making, in 1764, an inspection of the works, partook there of a cold repast. Subsequently the Block House, reverting to the older name under the corrupted form Pigeon House, became the famous starting place for the English packet boats, which has been immortalised in the works of Lever and other writers of fiction, and from it the sea-tossed passengers, after escaping from the revenue officers, or the plucking of the Pigeon House, as it was called, were conveyed to town in a vehicle known as a Long Coach, the discomfort of which has been pathetically described by one who endured it (1).

## BAGGOTRATH.

WHERE Upper Baggot Street now stands was to be seen in the early part of the nineteenth century the ruins of a mediæval castle, the chief residence of the manor of Baggotrath—a manor which included, as already mentioned under the history of Merrion, not only a great portion of the lands forming the Pembroke Township, but also those on which Merrion Square, Fitzwilliam Square, and the adjoining streets are built.

These lands, like those of Merrion, lay within the liberties of the citizens of Dublin. They extended in the thirteenth century on the west to the lands of the Convent of St. Mary de Hogges, now College Green, on the north to the Steyne, or bank of the Liffey, on the east to the Dodder, which separated them from the lands of Richard de St. Olof, now known as Simmonscourt, and on the

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(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 80, 87, 94, 178, 185, 435; *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. ii., p. 99, vol. iii., p. 281.

south to the lands of the See of Dublin, now known as Cullenswood, and to the citizen's common pasture, called the green of St. Stephen. Soon after the Anglo-Norman invasion, Baggotrath, then known as the Rath near Donnybrook, was granted by the Crown to Theobald Walter, the first chief butler, ancestor of the Ormonde family, but in the succeeding century it was held by tenants, whose title was derived from the Corporation of Dublin. The first of these were Ralph de Mora and William de Flamstead, and they were succeeded in 1255 by no less a person than Maurice Fitzgerald, afterwards Justiciary or Viceroy of Ireland, an ancestor of the Leinster family. From Maurice FitzGerald, who was under a covenant not to build a village, which might burden the common lands of the citizens, the lands passed to Philip de Hyndeberge, whose grandson, Nicholas de Hyndeberge, conveyed them in 1280 to the family from which the district takes its name.

The first of the house of Bagod to occupy them appears to have been Sir Robert Bagod, Chief Justice of "the Bench" in Ireland. He was a man of activity and ability, and, as his friend, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, testified, of devoted loyalty to the Crown. He was succeeded successively in the possession of Baggotrath by his son, who bore the same Christian name, and was also a Knight and Justice of "the Bench"; by his grandson, Hervey Bagod, Archdeacon of Glendalough, and by his great grandson, William, son of Sir William Bagod. In the deed of conveyance to Sir Robert Bagod no castle is mentioned as standing in the Manor of the Rath, which is described as consisting of three carucates and forty acres of land, with a site for a mill and a mill-race fed by the Dodder, but the erection of one was at once undertaken by Sir Robert Bagod. Leave to cut timber for building, as well as fire wood, in the forest at Maynooth was granted to him by Nicholas de Hyndeberge, and in a grant made by him of portion of the lands, he reserves the right to quarry for stone, for building and fencing. At the time of his death, in 1336, Sir Robert Bagod's son and successor was residing in the castle, which was supplied with much furniture and plate, and, as a long inventory of the crops and stock shows, farming the lands <sup>(1)</sup>.

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(1) "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," by James Mills, *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv., p. 168; *Blacker's Sketches*, p. 64; "Special Report of the Trial in the case of the Corporation of Dublin *versus* the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert," Dublin, 1861; Patent Rolls, p. 3; Plea and Memoranda Rolls; Butler's "Register of All Hallows"; Sweetman's Calendar; Gilbert's "Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin."

After the lands, described as then containing two carucates, with the castle and a mill, had been for a time held by Walter, son of Richard Passavaunt, and by Sir John Cruise and Stephen, Bishop of Meath, acting as custodians under the Crown, they came into the occupation of William Fitzwilliam, son of Richard Fitzwilliam, of Moreton, near Swords, the most important member of the Fitzwilliam family of that period. He was a man of high position and influence, and held, amongst other offices, those of Constable of Wicklow Castle, Sheriff of the Counties of Dublin and Meath, and Guardian of the Steyne, or sea approach to the metropolis. From 1379 to 1400 the castle was occupied by him, and then after passing through the hands of James Cotenham and Sir John Stanley, it came, in 1403, into the possession of Sir Edward Perrers. Perrers was a warrior and statesman, who rendered signal service to the Crown during the Viceroyalty of the boy Lord Lieutenant, Prince Thomas of Lancaster, and who, as Constable of Wicklow Castle, in the custody of which he succeeded William Fitzwilliam, kept the O'Byrnes in check. He was given, as a mark of the royal favour, a grant out of the payments made to the Crown by the City of Dublin, which relieved Baggotrath of rent to the Corporation. Perrers made the castle his home, and soon after he became the owner, license was given to his servants to go by sea to Wicklow and bring from thence building materials for its repair. After his death, as he left an only son, who died, after a visit to the English Court, in 1428, Baggotrath passed to his widow, Johanna, who was afterwards twice married, first to John Eustace of Newland, and, secondly, to Sir John Bacon.

As executor of her will, executed on her death-bed in the Castle of Baggotrath on New Year's Eve in the year 1441, James Cornwalsh, then Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, came into possession of Baggotrath. This acquisition was attended with fatal consequences to him. The family of Sir Edward Perrers resented Cornwalsh's occupation of a castle which they thought rightfully belonged to them, and William Fitzwilliam, the then owner of Dundrum, who had married Sir Edward Perrers's daughter, Ismaia, determined to take the castle from him. With a great multitude of armed men in warlike array he descended, on the 28th September in the following year, upon the castle, and finding there the Chief Baron, who had come up from his residence at Dunboyne to hold the Michaelmas sittings of his Court, did, as was alleged, traitorously and feloniously murder him. Either the charge was not well



founded, or the provocation was considered an excuse for the outrage, for a pardon was speedily granted to William Fitzwilliam and his wife, and Baggotrath, which was afterwards confirmed to him by Sir John Perrers's nephew and heir, John Hall, remains in the possession of his descendants to the present day (1).



Baggotrath Castle in 1792.

*From a Plate in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland."*

The Castle of Baggotrath in the year 1489 was in a ruinous condition, but it was subsequently restored, and, as mentioned in the history of Merrion, became the principal residence of Thomas Fitzwilliam, who was the great grandson of William Fitzwilliam, the son-in-law of Sir Edward Perrers, and also of his son, Richard Fitzwilliam, who died there. After Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, the son of Richard Fitzwilliam, succeeded to the property we find in 1547 Robert Jans, a merchant of Dublin, and in 1561 Patrick Sarsfield sometime Mayor of the city, described as of Baggotrath. Before the year 1568 the castle was in the occupation of a sister of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, Katherine, widow of John Cashell, a Drogheda merchant, and there in 1574 she died. Her will contains much

(1) Memoranda and Plea Rolls; Patent Rolls, pp. 86, 169, 184, 228, 250, 251, 263; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 62, 109, 399; Calendar of English Patent Rolls, 1422-1429, pp. 95, 101, 471, 478, 583.

curious information as to the manners and customs of that time. "To every dweller her tenant in Baggotrath to relieve their poverty," and to every poor or religious house within the city of Dublin, she leaves a peck of malt and of peas; to St. John's House a double quantity, and to the religious house beyond the Liffey, in order to obtain their prayers for her soul, "a pan that breweth one peck, with a barness, to remain for the easement of the poor"; she mentions various articles of jewellery and apparel, including a great and a small ring, a heart of gold, a clasp and silver buttons, a gown of purple with green velvet trimmings and a little harness girdle, a pair of tassels and a cloak, which she leaves to the parson of Trim, who is to redeem it from the person then mending it; and concludes by bequeathing to her cousin, the Mayor of Dublin, John Ussher, of whom we shall see under Donnybrook, "a couple of beeves" for his kitchen, and to the Mayoress her second-best board or table cloth (1).

About the year 1609 Baggotrath was held under the Fitzwilliams by Sir Anthony St. Leger, a son of "the wise and wary" Lord Deputy of that name, who held the position of Master of the Rolls. Before 1615 the castle had passed from him into the occupation of the Right Hon. Sir John King, the founder of the Kingston family. King was an Irish administrator who earned much distinction on the commissions in connection with the early plantations, and it was as a reward for his services that the vast estate in Roscommon owned by his descendants was granted to him. One of his younger sons was the Edward King whose untimely fate by the foundering of a ship in which he was crossing from Chester to Ireland, in 1637, is deplored in Milton's *Lycidas*. At the time of the Rebellion Baggotrath appears to have been taken possession of by the military authorities. Viscount Fitzwilliam complained on more than one occasion of wastage of his lands by the commander of the ordnance, and in June, 1642, 260 horses belonging to the transport were stationed there. These, the night before they were to leave for the country, with reinforcements just arrived from Chester, were carried off by a party of Wicklow mountaineers, and the soldiers had to supply their loss by seizing next day from friend and foe alike all the horses they could find in the neighbourhood (2).

(1) Morrin's "Patent and Close Rolls," Henry VIII.—Elizabeth, pp. 130, 465; Fiant Elizabeth, No. 421; Will of Katherine Fitzwilliam.

(2) "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxxi., pp. 128, 138, 139, 154, 155; Blacker's Sketches, p. 401; Letters to and from the Earl of Cork, preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, f. 62, and copy in British Museum, Egerton Manuscripts, 80, p. 95.

The event destined at the same time to invest Baggotrath with historical importance, and to cause the demolition of its castle, the Battle of Rathmines, which resulted in the overthrow of the Royalist army under the Duke of Ormonde by the Dublin garrison of the Parliament under the command of Colonel Michael Jones, took place in the year 1649. Ormonde, who had given up Dublin two years before that time to the Parliament, had returned to Ireland in October, 1648. He had landed at Cork, and after a long delay at Kilkenny, spent in reconciling the conflicting elements of which his army was to be composed, he had advanced on Dublin. In the succeeding June he encamped at Finglas, whence, as we have seen, a detachment of his forces made an attack on the outposts of the besieged town at Ringsend. Towards the end of July Ormonde, for the purpose of more closely investing the town, moved the greater portion of his troops to the southern side, and encamped with them on the lands of Rathmines, near where Palmerston Park now lies.

The Castle of Baggotrath was the strongest building near Dublin, and its occupation by Ormonde would have been in the highest degree prejudicial to the besieged garrison. The fields lying between it and the Liffey provided the only sustenance for their horses, and it would have been easy from it to raise earthworks along the estuary of the river to prevent the landing of reinforcements and provisions. Colonel Jones had, therefore, taken the precaution of partly demolishing the castle. Notwithstanding its condition, it was determined at a council of war held by Ormonde on August 1st, that, if it were possible to fortify it in one night, the work should be undertaken and troops placed in it. Several of Ormonde's generals were at once sent off to make an inspection, and, as their report was favourable, a body of troops to the number of 1,500 men, with materials for constructing fortifications, under the command of Major-General Patrick Purcell, set out that night for the castle. Owing to the treachery of the guides the troops did not reach Baggotrath until a little before daylight, and when Ormonde rode down from Rathmines in the morning he found not only that the castle was not as strong as he had been led to believe, but also that owing to the shortness of the time and the incompetence of the Engineer the work of fortification was little advanced.

The design of Ormonde had been made known to Colonel Jones, and from the high ground near the castle, Ormonde perceived that

he was getting his army into battle array under the protection of earthworks behind Trinity College. A battle was certain, but Ormonde thought it would not take place for some hours, and as he had sat up all night he went off to his tent to take some rest, ordering the army to stand to their guns. He had not long gone when Colonel Jones descended on Baggotrath with 4,000 foot and 1,200 horse. The only protection which had been erected appears to have been a rampart thrown across the road, and, although the defenders fought gallantly, this was soon surmounted. The royalist horse deserted the foot soldiers, and, most of them having been slain or taken prisoners, Colonel Jones followed up his advantage by advancing on Rathmines, where the final conflict was waged (1).

Although the village of Baggotrath, stated at the time of the Restoration to have been inhabited by three persons of English and twenty-nine persons of Irish descent, continued to exist, no attempt was made to restore the Castle of Baggotrath, and it remained in a state of ruin until the extension of Dublin in the nineteenth century required its removal. The ruins have been described by Austin Cooper, who visited them in 1778, and who mentions that a deep trench reminded the visitor of the scenes that had been enacted there, but a picture by Francis Grose, which is here reproduced, gives a better idea of its appearance (2).

## DONNYBROOK.

DONNYBROOK, or the Church of St. Broc, now the name of a suburb to the north-west of Simmonscourt and south-west of Baggotrath, was formerly the designation of a village of very ancient origin, and at the time of the Anglo-Norman Invasion was also the designation of a very large extent of lands. These lands, comprising six carucates, and including those of Merrion and Simmonscourt, as well as a townland called Forty Acres, on which Clyde Road is built,

(1) Carte's "Life of Ormonde"; Gardiner's "History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate"; Carte's "Original Letters"; Gilbert's "History of the Irish Confederation and War in Ireland"; Walsh's "History and Vindication of the Loyal Formulary or Irish Remonstrance," p. 609; "A Letter from Sir Lewis Dyve to the Lord Marquis of Newcastle," London, 1650, and "Lieut.-General Jones's Letter to the Council of State of a Great Victory," London, 1649, preserved in the Thorpe Tracts in the National Library of Ireland.

(2) Poll Tax Returns; Cooper's Note Book; Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland," p. 10; Blacker's Sketches, p. 312.



were then given, as has been already related, to Walter de Rideleford, Lord of Bray. While in possession of his family two portions of the lands were granted away in fee, namely, the portion now forming Simmonscourt, the alienation of which cut off Merriion from Donnybrook and made Merriion a separate manor, and the portion known as the Forty Acres, which was granted for the annual payment of a pound of pepper to the Priory of All Saints.

There was not any castle on the lands, which were divided into farms held from Walter de Rideleford by his men of Donnybrook, but the village or town in which these men of Donnybrook dwelt was for the period one of considerable size. In the fourteenth century it was governed by a bailiff, and probably possessed walls which afforded some resistance to the raids of the hillsmen. It must, however, have largely depended, owing to the absence of a castle, on outlying places for protection, and it was a short-sighted policy that induced the inhabitants in 1356 to resist a rate to pay for watchmen on the mountains to warn them when the Irish enemies of the King were meditating an incursion. The establishment of the Fair of Donnybrook, the great mart of the citizens of Dublin in the middle ages, made it also a place of no small importance. The license to hold this fair was issued to the citizens of Dublin so early as the reign of King John in the year 1204. At first the period for which the fair might last was eight days, and it was appointed to be held on the vigil, day, and morrow of the Invention of the Holy Cross, which falls on May 3rd, and for five days afterwards. The period was subsequently extended to fifteen days, the profits from the tolls for two of those days, namely, the vigil and the day of the Invention of the Cross, being granted to the Archbishop of Dublin, and the date was changed in 1241 to the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, in 1279, to the Translation of St. Benedict the Abbot, which falls in July, and finally to the Decollation of St. John the Baptist, on the 29th of August, on which date it continued to be held until the fair, in its sadly degenerated form, ceased to exist in the nineteenth century.

Besides Walter de Rideleford, who was succeeded at Donnybrook by his eldest daughter, the wife of Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, there were others concerned in the lands of the district. Chief of these was Walter de Lacy, brother of the Earl of Ulster, who granted lands in Donnybrook to one Walter Misset, in consideration of the rent to the Crown, which was the payment for one archer rendered at the gate of Dublin Castle. Amongst other

persons mentioned in connection with the ownership of the lands in the thirteenth century are Henry de Verneuil, who in 1222 had a suit with Walter de Rideleford touching them; Theobald le Butler, or de Verdon, whose mother was grand-daughter and co-heir of Walter de Lacy; and Matilda le Butler, who exchanged with William de London and Matilda, his wife, her interest in the Manor of Wicklow for a messuage and 183 acres of land in Donnybrook <sup>(1)</sup>.

After being for a time at the beginning of the fourteenth century in the possession of the Bagods of Baggotrath, who held also the Forty Acres under the Priory of All Saints, and subsequently in that of the Fitzwilliams of Dundrum, the lands of Donnybrook passed to the Ussher family on the marriage in 1524 of Alison, daughter of Thomas Fitzwilliam, and sister of Richard Fitzwilliam, then owner of Merrion, Baggotrath, and Dundrum, to Christopher Ussher, a collateral ancestor of the two distinguished Primates of his name. The Usshers were great people in the Dublin mercantile world of that day, and Christopher Ussher filled, as his father had done before him, the office of Mayor. Like Richard Fitzwilliam, he was a devoted adherent of the house of Kildare, and in 1514 was presented by the Earl with a hackney. He had been previously married, and was nearly sixty when he contracted the alliance with Alison Fitzwilliam. He only survived this marriage two years, and died, leaving an infant son. This son, John Ussher, who succeeded to the Donnybrook estate, followed in his father's footsteps, became Mayor of Dublin, and rose to a position of much eminence amongst the inhabitants of that city. When a young man of little over thirty we find him acting as Captain of the City Levies in an expedition against the Scottish invaders, but in later life he turned his attention to the works of peace, and is remarkable as being the person to whose munificence and religious zeal we owe the first book printed in Irish, which was a translation of the Catechism of the Church of Ireland. He stood high in the favour of the Government officials as a conscientious and God-fearing man, and was a frequent visitor to London in connection with projects for the increase of the revenue, his profits in which he desired to bestow in founding a college or university.

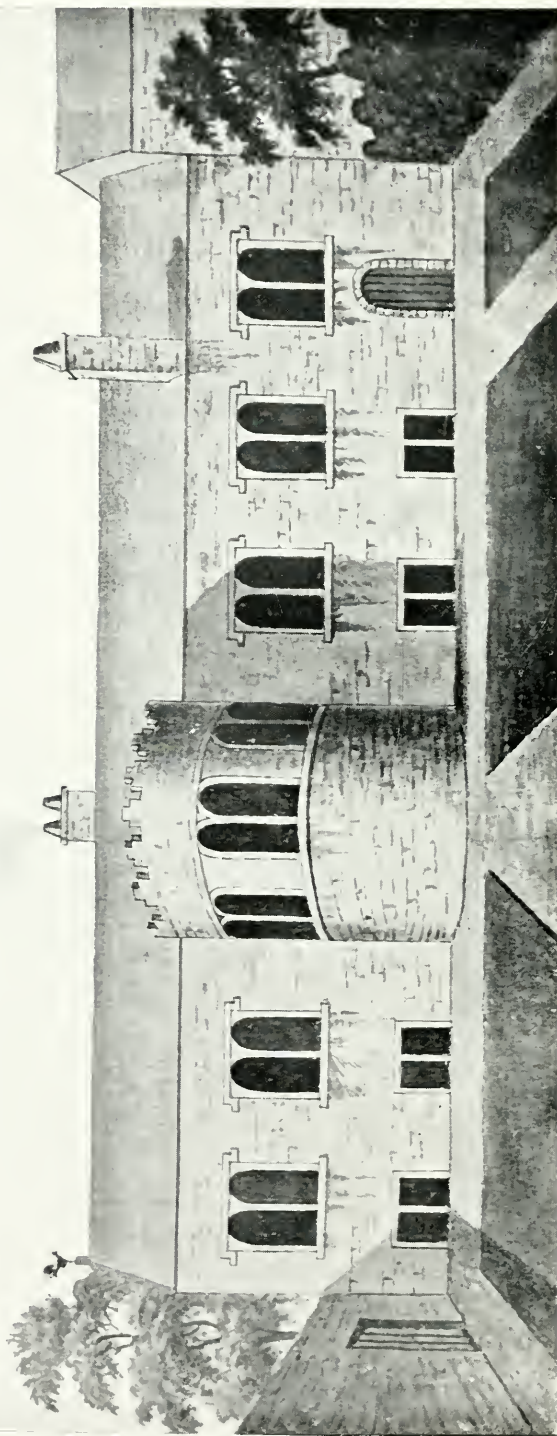
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<sup>(1)</sup> Memoranda and Plea Rolls; Patent Rolls, pp. 4, 62; Sweetman's Calendar, 1171-1251, No. 1036, 1079, 1109, 1302-1307, No. 547; Christ Church Deeds, Nos. 501, 541; Butler's "Register of All Hallows"; "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," by James Mills in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv., p. 167; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 44, 60, 139, 375.

When the Usshers acquired Donnybrook, then stated to contain three dwellings and one and a half carucates of land, as well as a watermill, a source of much revenue, which the Fitzwilliams retained themselves, it contained no mansion house, but during the sixteenth century the Usshers erected there a handsome Elizabethan residence. This became the home of John Ussher's only surviving son, Sir William Ussher, for over forty years Clerk of the Privy Council and sometime representative in Parliament for the borough of Wicklow. His first wife was a daughter of the great Archbishop Loftus, who speaks of Sir William's father as "a rare man for honesty and religion," and to his father-in-law's influence, in addition to his own fidelity, learning, and good character, the success which attended him in life is to be attributed. He continued to carry on the work of printing books in Irish commenced by his father, and in his town house in Bridgefoot Street, in the year 1602, the first Irish version of the New Testament was printed. This was dedicated to King James I., who thus became acquainted, before he ascended the throne of England, with Sir William Ussher, and did not afterwards forget him.

Sir William Ussher's eldest son, Arthur Ussher, who was drowned while crossing the Dodder in presence of a number of persons on horseback and on foot, including his nearest friends, who were powerless to save him, predeceased him, and Sir William Ussher, who died in 1637 at a very advanced age, was succeeded by his grandson, Sir William Ussher the younger. As his grandfather had done before him, the latter made a great match, marrying the daughter of Sir William Parsons, afterwards a Lord Justice of Ireland, and a relative of the first Earl of Cork, who mentions young Ussher more than once in his diary; but it was probably to his grandfather's interest that he owed the honour of Knighthood which was conferred on him by the Earl of Strafford during his grandfather's lifetime. Sir William Ussher the elder had, besides his eldest son, a son Adam, who was Ulster King of Arms, and six daughters; his eldest son, Arthur Ussher, who was joined with him in the office of Clerk of the Council, had eight sons and four daughters, and Sir William Ussher the younger, who was twice married, had eight sons and four daughters. It would be impossible to give a list of all the noble and distinguished persons who trace descent from them, but amongst these may be mentioned the Dukes of Wellington and Leinster, and the Earls of Rosse, Egmont, Lanesborough, Emmiskillen, and Milltown (1).

(1) Ball Wright's "Ussher Memoirs," Chapters xi. and xii.; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Report ix., App., pt. i., p. 282; "The Description of Ireland in 1598," edited by Rev. Edmund Hogan, p. 37; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. i., p. 388; Will of Sir William Ussher.



Donnybrook Castle.

*From a Drawing by Thomas Ashworth preserved in Gabriel Beranger's Sketch Book in the Royal Irish Academy.*



The boldness of the rebels and the imminent peril to which the City of Dublin was exposed in the rebellion of 1641 are forcibly illustrated by depositions made by the owners of two farms at Donnybrook. In the first of these Richard Winstanley deposed that in addition to the destruction of his house he had suffered the loss of twenty cows of English breed, and eight horses carried off from his farm within two miles of Dublin, and in the second, Robert Woodward, whose house at Donnybrook had also been destroyed, deposed that the rebels had followed him to College Green, where he had taken his cattle for safety, and carried off thirty cows and five horses. When setting out from Dublin, after taking Drogheda, for the South of Ireland, Oliver Cromwell selected Donnybrook as the rendezvous for his army, and there on September 22, 1649, four regiments of light horse, four regiments of dragoons, and four regiments of foot assembled and encamped that night. At the time of the Restoration the population of Donnybrook is returned as four persons of English and nine persons of Irish descent, and a few years later Sir William Ussher is returned as occupying the mansion house, which was rated for the purposes of taxation as containing thirteen hearths. The mill, which was still a source of profit, continued to be the property of the Fitzwilliams, and is mentioned amongst the possessions of the Earl of Tyrconnel and of his nephew, the fourth Viscount Fitzwilliam (1).

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the mansion house of Donnybrook was held under the eldest son of Sir William Ussher the younger, Christopher Ussher, "a person of true piety, solid judgment, and great estate, eminent for his great charity, and a vast encourager of learning," by Mr. Thomas Twigg, who belonged to the legal profession. On the death of Mr. Twigg in 1702 the mansion house, in accordance with the terms of his will, in which he directs that he should be buried "without noise or charge" in St. Kevin's Church, became vested in trustees for the purposes of sale. One of these trustees was Sir Francis Stoyte, who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1705, and, as mentioned in Dean Swift's *Journal to Stella*, some of Stoyte's relatives afterwards occupied it. There Stella stayed, and so could not write to Swift; there she lost money at cards with Dean Sterne and the Stoytes: there she was carried by Dean Sterne to cut asparagus; and there Goody Stoyte was to give Swift a world of dinners (2).

(1) Depositions of 1641 (Richard Winstanley and Robert Woodward of Dublin); Manuscript in Trinity College Library, F. 4, 16; Poll Tax Returns; Hearth Money Roll (City of Dublin).

(2) Ball Wright's "Ussher Memoirs," p. 118; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 162, 405, 415; Wills of Twigg and Stoyte families.

Amongst other temporary residents in the mansion house was one of the six clerks in the Court of Chancery, Isaac Dobson. He was the son of a leading Dublin bookseller and publisher in the reign of Queen Anne, of whom more will be seen as a resident at Dundrum, and from his three daughters, of whom the eldest was "a young lady of great merit, beauty, and three thousand pounds fortune," are descended Lord Carew, Sir William Joshua Paul of Waterford, and the Moores of Mooresfort, in the County Tipperary. At the same time portion of the mansion house was occupied by a young barrister, Warden Flood, who was destined to become Chief Justice of Ireland, and to be father of the well-known statesman and orator, but who, owing to his slender means, lived at Donnybrook in a retired manner, and was not popular on account of his pride and reserve (1).

The interest of the Twiggs in the mansion house and demesne lands of Donnybrook was in 1726 sold to Robert Jocelyn, then M.P. for Granard and third Sergeant-at-Law, and subsequently Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the ancestor of the Earls of Roden. He was an Englishman of good family—a grandson of a baronet—who had come to this country in the year 1719 to practice at the bar. In the society which his countrymen, who then filled the highest positions in Church and State, made amongst themselves, and into which he had the *entrée*, Jocelyn became acquainted with the Bishop of Kilmore, Dr. Timothy Goodwyn, and little more than a year after his call to the bar he was married to that prelate's sister-in-law in Kilmore Cathedral. To the Bishop his return as member for Granard was due, which, in conjunction with the friendship of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, with whom he had been in chambers in London, led to his legal promotion. After his appointment to the woolsack, Jocelyn took Mount Merrion House from the Fitzwilliams, and under that place something more will be seen of him (2).

The old mansion house of Donnybrook, of which a sketch, taken by Thomas Ashworth, a linen printer, who was murdered in 1757 on the high road from Dublin to Donnybrook, is here reproduced, was at this time falling into decay, being finally demolished in 1759,

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(1) Blacker's Sketches, p. 169; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xxxvi., No. 53.

(2) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 162, 415; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxix., p. 399; "Letters to and from Bishop Nicholson," vol. ii., pp. 502, 525-527; Barristers' Oath Roll in Public Record Office; Kilmore Grant Book; "Life of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke."

and Lord Chancellor Jocelyn appears to have lived in a house which still exists on the Eglinton Road, and is known under the name of Ballinguile. This house, which was approached by an avenue of elms and was surrounded by gardens and fields, he leased, on going to live at Mount Merrion, to Mr. Arthur Newburgh, Secretary of the Linen Board, who was married to one of the Coles, and subsequently in 1749 he assigned it to his son, who succeeded to the viscounty bestowed on him, and was created Earl of Roden. Amongst other residents at Donnybrook in Lord Chancellor Jocelyn's time were the Rector of the parish, Archdeacon Whittingham, who resided in the glebe house adjoining the old graveyard in the village, and William Roberts, an eminent doctor of laws, who resided at Coldblow, now known as Belmont Avenue, and whose collateral descendant, Captain Lewis Riall, D.L., of Old Connaught Hill, now owns his property (1).

During the early part of the eighteenth century the river Dodder was crossed at Donnybrook by a ford, and it was not until the year 1741 that a bridge was erected. This bridge was carried away by mountain floods within six months of its construction—an occurrence which it was feared would ruin the contractors who had given security to keep it in repair for fourteen years. On the Stillorgan Road, where now lies Nutley, the seat of the Right Hon. Mr. Justice Madden, there was then a small village known as Priesthouse, the principal resident in which was Mr. Patrick McCarthy, a linen and cotton bleacher. A curious advertisement appeared in 1750 from McCarthy warning his customers, whom it was his intention to serve with care, justice, and honour, that some employée, without his knowledge, had used lime in the bleaching process—a thing which he had sworn before Mr. Arthur Newburgh never to do himself—and he announced in 1764 that he had bleached a parcel of stockings for the Prince of Wales, and invited the public to join a royal cavalcade of his friends adorned with orange and blue cockades, who had undertaken to accompany him when bringing his handiwork to Dublin Castle. Donnybrook Fair had before that time become a place of amusement, and its drolleries, doubtless, gave rise in 1729 to a satirical elegy on the much-lamented death of Madam Bentley, who broke her neck when riding to Donnybrook—a lady for whom the poet predicts no good fate in the next world. Apart from the Fair, Donnybrook was also in the eighteenth century a great resort

(1) *Gabriel Berninger's Sketch Book* in *Royal Irish Academy*; *Proclamations* in *Public Record Office*; *Blackler's Sketches*, pp. 72, 168, 170, 279; *Will of William Roberts*.

of the citizens of Dublin, and in the early part of that period we find houses with the signs of the Red Cross and of the Dargle. Later on, in addition to an inn renowned for its Wicklow ale, two tea houses were opened—one of these known as the sign of the Rose, occupying the glebe house, formerly the residence of Archdeacon Whittingham (1).

Amongst the residents in the later half of the eighteenth century we find Sir Edward Barry, who lived in a large house known as Barry House, on the main road to Dublin. He was a physician of great eminence, on whom a baronetcy was conferred, and was author of several medical works, including one on the history of wines, a subject of which he was the first to treat scientifically. After his death, Barry House became in 1777 the residence of Robert Hellen, then Solicitor-General for Ireland, and afterwards a Justice of the Common Pleas, who figures in the pages of "Baratariana," and there in 1793 Judge Hellen died. He was a most popular judge, esteemed for his profound legal knowledge as well as for his urbanity, and was a man of literary tastes and culture, his library being one of the best in the kingdom of his day, and his collection of paintings and antiquities of rare excellence. Another resident was Lieutenant-General Lewis Dejean, Colonel of the Regiment of Horse Carbineers, who in 1762 entertained the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Halifax, at dinner at his house on the Donnybrook Road, and died two years later at the age of eighty; and the Downes family, of which Lord Downes, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, was a distinguished member, was long seated there. Balinguile had become the residence of John Fitzgibbon, the father of Lord Chancellor Clare, the determined opponent of the Union, and later on the fourth Viscount Chetwynd had a country house near Donnybrook Green. At Coldblow, died in 1789, Sir William Fortick, whose name is still preserved in an almshouse in Little Denmark Street founded by a member of his family, and subsequently it was for many years the home of the Honble. Denis George, successively Recorder of Dublin and a Baron of the Exchequer (2).

(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 165, 425; Steele's "Notes on Ireland," Bodleian Library MS., 18316, f. 5; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office: "An Elegy on Madam Bentley," preserved amongst Irish Pamphlets in Trinity College Library; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 2428, 3896; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lvii., No. 84.

(2) Leases in Registry of Deeds Office: "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. iii., p. 314; Barrington's "Personal Recollections," vol. i., p. 119; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 82, 83, 170, 182, 186; Tyner's "Travellers' Guide through Ireland," p. 78; *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1821, pt. i., p. 647; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lix., Nos. 34, 46, 67; vol. lxi., Nos. 6317, 6318; vol. lxii., No. 6396.



The far-famed fair of Donnybrook was throughout the eighteenth century, and down to the year 1855, when it was abolished, the annual carnival of the Dublin populace. It has formed the theme of innumerable ballads and humorous descriptions, and it would be well if history could confirm the account which they give of a scene of light-hearted gaiety. This, however, truth does not permit. All references in local literature indicate that the fair was the occasion of drunkenness, riot, and moral degradation which were a disgrace to Ireland, and it would serve no useful purpose to enter more fully into particulars of revels, the abolition of which was a service to civilization (1).

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

DONNYBROOK was, in the opinion of that learned Celtic scholar, the late Dr. James Henthorn Todd, the site of a Convent founded in the early days of the Irish Church by a holy woman canonized under the name of St. Broc, and in the Martyrology of Donegal, Mobi, a nun of Donnybrook, whose festival fell on September 30th, is noticed. St. Broc was one of the seven daughters of Dallbronach, who resided in the barony of Deece, in the County Meath, and is mentioned in the Works of Aengus the Culdee (2).

A church, which probably had its origin in the religious establishment of St. Broc, existed in Donnybrook (where a large graveyard marks its site), at the time of the Anglo-Norman conquest. It was then a member of the Church of Taney or Dundrum, a church of great importance in Celtic times, and was given in the beginning of the thirteenth century with the latter church by Archbishop Luke, whose chaplain, William de Romney, had for a time held it, to the Archdeacon of Dublin as part of the support of his dignity. From that time until the year 1864, when it was severed from his corps and made a separate benefice, it continued with short interregnums — at the time of the dissolution of the religious houses and at the time of the Commonwealth — to belong to the Archdeacon of Dublin.

(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 13, 47, 80, 86, 89, 98, 142, 170, 407.

(2) Blacker's Sketches, p. 120.

Of the church in early times there is little recorded, but its valuation—thirteen marks—shows that it possessed a considerable number of worshippers, and it was served by a resident chaplain under the Archdeacons. At the time of the dissolution of the religious houses the tithes, including those from the fisheries, and church dues, were valued at £15 3s. 4*d.*, and these, together with the glebe house and three acres of land, were leased first to John Sharp and afterwards to John Goldsmith, of Dublin, who undertook to provide a fit chaplain for the church (1).

The chapel at Merrion, the site of which is marked by a graveyard, referred to under the history of that place, does not appear to have been an edifice of any importance (2), and after the dissolution of the religious houses in the sixteenth century the Church of Donnybrook, as has been already mentioned, became the burying place of the Fitzwilliams, who had a chapel off it, in which Richard Fitzwilliam in 1596 ordered a tomb in memory of his ancestors to be erected. In the beginning of the seventeenth century both the chancel and nave of the church were in good repair, and there was a congregation of about forty. The duty was discharged by curates appointed by the Archdeacons, and amongst those who served in that capacity were, in 1615, the Rev. Robert Pont, who was murdered a few years later at Rathdrum, in the County Wicklow—a vicarage to which he had been appointed by the Crown; in 1630, the Rev. Richard Prescott, a master of arts and a preacher, to whom the Archdeacon allowed a stipend of £12 out of his tithes, amounting to £100; in 1639, the Rev. Nathaniel Hoyle, already referred to in connection with Bullock; in 1644, the Rev. John Watson, like Mr. Hoyle, a Fellow of Trinity College; in 1645, the Rev. George Hudson, a prebendary of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who died the next year; in 1647, the Rev. John Butler; and in 1648, the Rev. William Selby (3).

The Roman Catholic Church at the beginning of the seventeenth century had enacted that parishes should be reconstructed for the purpose of administration, and that, when from want of clergy priests could not be found for each, several parishes should be

(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 60, 64, 99, 226, 370; "Crede Mibi," edited by Sir John Gilbert, p. 136; Fiant Edward VI., No. 39.

(2) See for tombstone inscriptions in Merrion graveyard, Blacker's Sketches, pp. 52, 470; and *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead*.

(3) Archbishop Bulkeley's Report, p. 148; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 65, 482; Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1625-1632; Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ"

united. Under this ordinance in 1630 the Rev. John Cahill was serving Donnybrook as well as Ringsend, Irishtown, Booterstown, Blackrock, Stillorgan, Kilmacud, and Dundrum, and holding services at Dundrum, under the protection of the Fitzwilliams, and at Balally, then owned by the Walshes, another Roman Catholic family. Later on a Roman Catholic place of worship was established at Booterstown, which in 1697 was served by the Rev. Patrick Gilmore, who had charge of the places mentioned, and was then living at Newtown on the Strand, or Seapoint, as it is now called (1).

Under the Established Church, after the Restoration, we find amongst the curates in charge of Donnybrook in 1669 the Rev. William FitzGerald, afterwards Bishop of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, of whom Archbishop Nareissus Marsh held no high opinion, and in 1679 the Rev. John Sankey. During the Revolution, owing to the resignation of the Archdeacon of Dublin, Dr. John FitzGerald, who was a brother of the Rev. William FitzGerald, and who was one of the non-jurors, the tithes of Donnybrook, together with those of Rathfarnham, also part of the Archdeacon's corps, were sequestered to the Rev. John Tucker and Daniel Reading. Archbishop King, in his diary, mentions that one Walker, "formerly a cobbler, afterwards a servant to Viscount Lisburne of Rathfarnham, and then a Cornet of Horse in King James's Army," threatened the Protestants of those parishes that if they did not pay their tithes he would kill them and burn all their corn. The curates of Donnybrook, after the Revolution, included in 1691 the Rev. John King; in 1694, the Rev. Thomas Leigh, a minor canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and a member of a family now represented by the Balfours of Townley Hall, County Louth; and in 1698 the Rev. Anthony Raymond, afterwards Vicar of Trim, frequently mentioned by Dean Swift in his *Journal to Stella*, the increasing congregation, doubtless, being the occasion of the presentation to the church in 1699 of a chalice and flagon, which are still in use, by the Archdeacon of that day, the Venerable Richard Reader (2).

The beginning of the eighteenth century saw the erection of the Royal Chapel of St. Matthew at Ringsend, now generally known as Irishtown Church. It was built at a cost of £1,000, towards which

(1) Archbishop Bulkeley's Report, p. 148; Documents preserved in Marsh's Library (3-1-18).

(2) Diocesan Records; Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae"; Blacker's Sketches, p. 160; Archbishop King's Diary.

the inhabitants of Ringsend were only able to contribute £23, and was completed in 1707, with the exception of a steeple, which was in 1712 ordered to be built at the charge of the Corporation of Dublin. It was one of the churches which the Diocese of Dublin owes to the zeal of the good Archbishop William King, to whom provision for a resident minister was for many years a subject of anxiety. In 1721 King writes to the Commissioners of Revenue in support of an application from a Mr. Porter, who had been very industrious in overseeing the building of the chapel and in soliciting subscriptions, that a grant should be given for the purpose, and says that he allowed himself £20 a year for the performance of Sunday duty there, which had been for a time undertaken by the Curate of Donnybrook, the Rev. Walter Thomas, and was then performed by the Rev. John Borough, ancestor of a baronet of that name. After great exertions the Archbishop was successful in securing the necessary amount, and in 1723 the Rev. John Borough, who died in 1726, and was buried in the churchyard, was appointed the first minister. He was followed in 1726 by the Rev. Michael Hartlib, who in early life was patronised by the Ormonde family, and whose appointment, as he held a distant benefice, Archbishop King did not approve; in 1741 by the Rev. Isaac Mann, who was afterwards successively Archdeacon of Dublin and Bishop of Cork; in 1750 by the Rev. Theophilus Brocas; in 1764 by the Rev. John Brocas; and in 1795 by the Rev. Robert Ball, who is buried in Stillorgan Churchyard (1).

The Fitzwilliams continued to make use of their burying place at Donnybrook; in 1667 Oliver, Earl of Tyrconnel was laid there, in 1676 Thomas, third Viscount Fitzwilliam, and in 1776 Richard, sixth Viscount Fitzwilliam, but besides these a host of distinguished people were buried at Donnybrook, and, to compare great things with small, Donnybrook Churchyard may be considered the Mount Jerome of the eighteenth century. Amongst those interred there were—in 1729, Archbishop King, who was buried, according to his desire, “in the little pleasant village” of Donnybrook in a tomb prepared by Ulster King of Arms, and whose interment was attended by most of the nobility and gentry, and thousands of the citizens; in 1730, his nephew, Archdeacon Dougatt, who was buried in the same grave; in 1733, Sir Edward Lovet Pearce, the architect of the Houses of Parliament, whose residence at Stillorgan,

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(1) Archbishop King's Correspondence preserved in Trinity College Library, Class V., Tab. 3, Nos. 3 and 7; Diocesan Records; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 72, 74, 77, 80, 83, 92, 93, 146, 152, 161, 162, 167, 180, 191, 201, 279, 406, 409, 446



where he died, has been noticed; in 1739, his brother, Lieutenant-General Thomas Pearce, who was "at once Governor, Mayor, and Representative in Parliament of the City of Limerick"; in 1758, Bishop Clayton and the Right Hon. James Tynte; in 1759, Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, the founder of the Lying-in Hospital, who died at Cullenswood; in 1762, Arthur Newburgh (whose residence at Donnybrook has been noted), and his wife, who only survived him a few months; in 1766, Bishop Clayton's widow; in 1780, the Hon. Francis Napier; and in 1785, Sir James Stratford Tynte, the General of the Volunteers. At Irishtown also some persons of note were buried, including Lord Chancellor Jocelyn's first wife, Henry, Lord Power, and a son of Lord Mayo (1).

During the first twenty years of the eighteenth century the cure of Donnybrook was entrusted to the Rev. Walter Thomas, but on succeeding to the Archdeaconry in 1719 the Venerable Charles Whittingham came to reside, as has been mentioned, in the glebe house next the churchyard, and ministered in the parish, with the assistance of his curates at St. Peter's, Dublin. Amongst those acting as curates of St. Peter's and Donnybrook were—in 1735, the Rev. Thomas Heany, afterwards Curate of Monkstown; in 1747, the Rev. William Donellan; in 1749, the Rev. Thomas Burton; in 1750, the Rev. James Hawkins, afterwards successively Bishop of Dromore and Raphoe; in 1753, the Rev. John Drury, a prebendary of Christ Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral, who died in 1791 in Cuffe Street; in 1756, the Rev. Peter Chaigneau, who was Secretary of the Dublin Society; in 1757 the Rev. John Owen, "a young gentleman of extraordinary good character," who died in 1760 in St. Stephen's Green. Then we find appointed for Donnybrook alone in 1760, the Rev. Philip Sheills; in 1761, the Rev. Lawrence Grace; in 1767, the Rev. Dive Downes, brother of Lord Downes, sometime Chief Justice of the King's Bench; in 1772, the Rev. Matthew West, the author of several poems and plays; in 1780, the Rev. Gore Wood; and in 1800, the Rev. George Wogan, who was murdered in 1826 by burglars (2).

During the eighteenth century the Roman Catholic Church established a place of worship at Ringsend in addition to the one which

(1) See for inscriptions on tombstones in Donnybrook graveyard and at St. Matthew's, Ringsend, Blacker's Sketches, pp. 124-138, 152-157, 288-308, 342-356, also for interments, extracts from the parish registers in Blacker's Sketches, pp. 271-288.

(2) Diocesan Records; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 71, 88, 92, 122, 196, 296, 411, 413, 415, 438, 444, 448, 449, 451, 452, 454, 463; Cotton's "Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ."

existed at Booterstown, and in the year 1788 Ringsend was severed from the other parishes, and made an independent charge. Amongst the clergy serving in Booterstown we find in 1731 the Rev. Francis Archbold; in 1766, the Rev. Matthew Kelly; in 1775, the Rev. James Nicholson; and in 1794, the Rev. Thomas Connolly, a preacher of great celebrity. Ringsend was in 1766 served by the Rev. Mr. Brady, as Curate to Mr. Kelly, and after its severance from Booterstown the following were appointed to its charge:— in 1788, the Rev. Peter Richard Clinch, who is buried in Irish-town Churchyard; and in 1792, the Rev. Charles Joseph Finn, an accomplished scholar (1).

An interesting description is given by Austin Cooper of the appearance at the close of the eighteenth century of the old Church of Donnybrook, which was dedicated to St. Mary. It was, as he mentions in his notebook under the date March 8th, 1780, a very plain structure, of T. shape. Opposite the entrance stood the Communion Table, which was severely unadorned, and on the right hand side of the entrance was the reading desk, which was surmounted by a handsome pulpit. Between the reading desk and the Communion Table the royal arms were displayed, and on the opposite wall there were several trophies composed of flags and banners, a coat of armour, and a sword and shield, with the motto "*ad mortem fidelis*." A fine black marble font, which was placed in the church in the year 1729, stood at the entrance to the nave. Adjoining the chancel was the chapel built by the Fitzwilliams, the door of which was always locked, and from which there had been formerly an entrance into the church near the Communion Table, and in it there was then to be seen a black marble tomb bearing the inscription "Here lyeth the body of the Right Honourable and Most Noble Lord Oliver, Earl of Tyrconnel, Lord Viscount Fitzwilliams, of Meryonge, Baron of Thornecastle, who died at his house in Meryonge April 11th, 1667, and was buried the 12th day of the same month" (2).

Of the ecclesiastical history of Donnybrook in the nineteenth century and of the numerous places of worship with which the district is now adorned much information will be found in the charming annals of the parishes of Booterstown and Donnybrook compiled by one of the most painstaking of parish historians, the

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(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 88, 154, 160, 205, 426, 428, 430, 447, 450, 453, 457; Religious Returns preserved in the Public Record Office.

(2) Cooper's Note Book; Blacker's Sketches, p. 165.

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late Rev. Beaver H. Blacker, who long ministered in them. Here it will suffice to record a few of the more important events. In 1824 a movement set on foot by Mr. James Digges La Touche, of Sans Souci, already mentioned in the history of Booterstown, resulted in the severance of the Booterstown district from Donnybrook. Booterstown, the tithes of which had been enjoyed in an anomalous manner by the Dean of Christ Church as rector of the adjoining parish of Monkstown, was then formed into a separate parish, with the church, dedicated to SS. Philip and James, in Cross Avenue, which was then erected, as the parish church. In 1827 the old church of Donnybrook, all trace of which has completely disappeared, was replaced by the modern church of St. Mary in Simmonscourt. And shortly before the Disestablishment of the Irish Church, in 1867, a similar movement to that in Booterstown resulted in the formation of the parish of St. Bartholomew, which comprises lands formerly in Donnybrook, with some additions from the original parish of St. Peter's, Dublin, and in the erection of the handsome parish church in Clyde Road <sup>(1)</sup>.

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(1) Blacker's Sketches, *passim*.

## Parish of Taney.

*(Commonly called Dundrum—i.e., Dundroma, or the Fort on the Ridge.)*



The Parish of Taney is shown on the Down Survey Map, which was made in 1657, as consisting of the Townlands of Dondrom, Ballintery, Rabuck, Owenstown, Kilmaeudd, Ballowley, Tyberstowne, Moltanstowne, and Milltowne.

Dondrom and Ballintery are represented by the modern Townlands of Ballinteer (*i.e.*, Baile-an-tsacir, or the Town of the Carpenter), Drummartin, and Dundrum.

Rabuck is represented by Friarsland, part of Roebuck, Mount Anville, and Trimlestown or Owenstown.

Owenstown now forms part of Mount Merrion or Callary.

Ballowley is represented by Balally (*i.e.*, Bally-Amblaibh, or the Town of Olave).

Milltowne by Churchtown Lower and Upper, Farranboley (*i.e.*, Dairy Land) and part of Roebuck.

Tyberstowne and Moltanstowne are now included in the Parish of Kill-of-the-Grange, and Kilmaeudd is a separate Parish.

The modern Townlands of Rathmines Great and Little were formerly included in the Parish of Rathfarnham, Mount Merrion South formed part of Kilmaeudd, and the lands included in Kingstown and Tiknock (*i.e.*, Tigh-cnuie, or the House of the Hill), do not appear in the Down Survey.

The only object of archaeological interest in the Parish is Dundrum Castle.



### DUNDRUM AND ITS CASTLE.

DUNDRUM, or the Fort on the Ridge, which lies to the west of Stillorgan and south-west of Donnybrook, still possesses remains of a castle, occupying, possibly, the site of the dun or fort from which the place derives its name. These remains are in the grounds of the modern house known as Dundrum Castle, overhanging the river which flows through the village, and besides being of considerable extent are of great strength, one of the walls being nearly six feet thick. The castle, which was built in two portions, one much larger than the other, is now an empty shell, but still possesses several features of interest, including windows, some more modern than





Dundrum Castle in 1903.  
*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

others, passages and small chambers constructed in the thickness of the walls, a garderobe, and fireplaces, one of these being of remarkably large size <sup>(1)</sup>.

The names Dundrum and Taney denoted in the century immediately succeeding the Anglo-Norman conquest separate and distinct lands, those of Dundrum being the property of lay owners, and those of Taney, now represented by the modern townlands of Churchtown, being the property of the Church. After the Conquest the lands of Dundrum and Taney were assigned to the family of de Clahull—a family whose possessions extended to Kerry, where its members ultimately settled—and at the beginning of the thirteenth century Sir John de Clahull, who was Marshal of the Lordship of Leinster, was the owner. To his generosity and piety the Church, under a grant from him to the Priory of the Holy Trinity and the Archbishop of Dublin, owed the lands of Taney, to some portion of which the Priory appears to have had previously a claim under a grant from an Irish chieftain called by the Norman scribe Marmacrudin, and these lands afterwards became solely vested in the Archbishop, and were included in his manor of St. Sepulchre. The lands of Dundrum were constituted a manor in themselves, with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto, and under Sir John de Clahull's successor, Sir Hugh de Clahull, were farmed by free tenants, including John de Roebuck, David Basset, and Elye, Geoffrey, and Neiminus de Dundrum, excepting some portion of the lands with a tenement, which was part of the jointure of Sir Hugh de Clahull's wife, the Lady Nichola. From Sir Hugh de Clahull the manor of Dundrum, after passing through the hands of his son-in-law, Sir Walter Purcell, who held judicial office, and of Hugh de Tachmun, Bishop of Meath, came about 1268 into the possession of Sir Robert Bagod of Baggotrath.

The lands of Dundrum were similarly situated to those of Carrikmynes, on the very extremity of the lands to the south of Dublin, afterwards enclosed within the Pale, and suffered severely by the raids of the Irish enemies of the Crown. At the beginning of the fourteenth century, when the invasion of Edward Bruce took place, a state of utter lawlessness prevailed, and the lands lying between Dundrum and Dublin, then composing the manor of St. Sepulchre, were completely devastated. On the lands of Farranboley, near Milltown, then part of that manor, the native Irish,

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<sup>(1)</sup> "The Lesser Castles of the County Dublin," by E. R. McC. Dix, in *The Irish Builder* for 1897, pp. 227, 236.

who had become serfs under the episcopal owner, and who had to submit to depredations from settlers like the Walshes, the Harolds, and the Archbolds, as well as from their own countrymen, were driven off, and the Archbishop of Dublin was subsequently forced to lease these lands, together with the adjoining lands of Taney, or Churchtown, at a reduced profit to free tenants, amongst whom were Edmund Hackett, Richard Chamberlain, and John Locumbe.

It was at this time that the Fitzwilliams appear as resident on the lands of Dundrum, which had, doubtless, undergone a similar experience to that of the lands within the manor of St. Sepulchre. Their coming there was probably due to that great ecclesiastical statesman, Alexander de Bicknor, then Archbishop of Dublin, into whose possession the manor of Dundrum, after it had been transferred from the Bagods to Sir Eustace de la Poer in exchange for lands in Limerick, had passed, and to whom the Fitzwilliams must have been known as residents near his great feudal castle at Swords, where they had been previously settled. At Dundrum the Fitzwilliams erected a castle, probably similar to one which a successor of John Locumbe undertook to build on the lands of Churchtown, described as a sufficient stone house, walled and battlemented, eighteen feet in breadth by twenty-six feet in length within the walls, and forty feet in height, and in addition to the lands of Dundrum they acquired those of Ballinteer, anciently called Cheevers-town, from a family of that name. Although another member of the Fitzwilliam family, Thomas Fitzwilliam, is mentioned as being in possession in 1332 of lands near Dundrum, the first of the name in possession of the manor of Dundrum was William, son of Richard Fitzwilliam, to whom in 1365 a conveyance of the manor was made, and who had rendered a few years before valiant service against the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles at Saggard in rescuing, after a battle in which five of the enemy were killed, prey which those tribes had carried off. William Fitzwilliam was succeeded by his son, John Fitzwilliam, and John Fitzwilliam by his son, William Fitzwilliam, who married Ismaia, daughter of Sir Edward Perrers, of Baggot-rath, and who has been already mentioned in connection with the assault on that castle, in which Chief Baron Cornwallsh lost his life (1).

(1) "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," and "Notices of the Manor of St. Sepulchre in the Fourteenth Century," by James Mills in *Journal, R.S., I.L.*, vol. xxiv., p. 167, vol. xix., pp. 31, 119; Christ Church Deeds, 6, 361; Plea, Memoranda, and Justiciary Rolls; Patent Rolls, pp. 48, 66, 153; Calendar of the Liber Niger, by Professor G. T. Stokes in *J.R.S., I.L.*, vol. xxiii., p. 305; D'Alton's History of the County Dublin, p. 812.

The last named William Fitzwilliam was a person of importance; he had a crowd of retainers who resided together with the tradesmen of Dundrum, the tailor and the cloth dresser, in the village under the protection of his castle, and he served for some time as sheriff of the metropolitan county. His eldest son, Thomas Fitzwilliam, who married Rosia, daughter of Sir John Bellew, predeceased him, and on his death about 1452 he was succeeded by Thomas Fitzwilliam's son, Richard Fitzwilliam, who married Margery Holywood, and who was succeeded about 1465 in his turn by his son, Thomas Fitzwilliam, husband of Eleanor Dowdall, of whom we have seen, both under Merrion and Baggotrath.

After transferring the seat of their branch of the family first to Baggotrath, and subsequently to Merrion, the Fitzwilliams of Dundrum appear to have allowed the Castle of Dundrum to fall into disrepair. It was, however, rebuilt by Richard, son and successor of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, who in his will made in 1596 desires that all his tenants dwelling at Dundrum at the time of his building there and giving him assistance should be forgiven the rents due after his death. One of his younger sons, William Fitzwilliam, who married the widow of Primate Henry Ussher, subsequently resided in the castle, and there in 1616, on his death-bed, he declared his will by word of mouth, leaving "all he was worth in this world" to his wife and infant daughter. At the time of the outbreak of the Rebellion in October, 1641, it was the residence of a nephew and namesake of its former occupant, Lieutenant-Colonel William Fitzwilliam, the younger son of the first Viscount Fitzwilliam, and afterwards holder of the titles as the third Viscount, but was taken possession of by the rebels, who were driven out of it by a body of troops in the following January. Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzwilliam with his family afterwards returned to live there, but found himself a sufferer from pillage on the part of the English soldiers. To defend himself from the latter he obtained in 1646 from the Duke of Ormonde a protection for his house, his lands, and goods, as well as for his family and servants, but a few weeks after he had received it he accompanied his father into neutral quarters.

During the period of the Rebellion Dundrum was a centre of disaffection. A resident at Churchtown, Richard Leech by name, who, although one of the churchwardens of the parish, is stated to have been a Roman Catholic, was murdered by the rebels there, and at the time Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzwilliam obtained protection for his property from the English soldiers, a travelling clothier, called Robert Turner, as he was coming through Old Rathmines,



then the high road from Dublin to Dundrum, was robbed by one, Donagh Cahere, of the latter place. In a letter to Cahere, the Duke of Ormonde states that he has been informed that Cahere, with his nephew and thirteen horse and foot, had taken Turner prisoner, and had seized his horses, bridles, saddles, pistols, and a quantity of cloth, and, after warning Cahere that if any harm befel Turner, whom Cahere had threatened to hang unless a ransom was paid, twenty Irish, then in the Duke's custody, should suffer for it, demands that Turner, with all his goods, should be delivered up safely <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Castle of Dundrum during these troublous times fell into disrepair, but was restored by Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Dobson, one of the officers of the Parliament Army, to whom it was leased in 1653, together with the lands of Dundrum and part of those of Kilmacud and Balally, by the Parliament. It is described shortly afterwards as being a slated castle in good repair, with three hearths, and having attached to it a barn and a garden. At the time of the Restoration, Dundrum is returned as containing fourteen persons of English and thirty-three of Irish extraction, inhabiting twenty-three houses, but on the neighbouring lands the population was very small. On the lands of Churchtown, which were then held by Sir William Ussher the younger, of Donnybrook, and by a Mr. Owen Jones, there were two English and five Irish inhabitants, only two of whom paid hearth tax, and in the mountainous district of Ticknock there were fifteen inhabitants with only four houses paying tax <sup>(2)</sup>.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dobson was a leading man amongst the rulers of Ireland under the Commonwealth. He was one of those who took evidence against the participators in the Rebellion, and was also a Commissioner for Revenue and Transplantation, for the Civil Survey of Ireland, and for the letting of lands. In recognition of his position he was admitted to the freedom of Dublin by special grace on payment of a pair of gloves to the Mayoress. After the Restoration he came to terms with the Fitzwilliams, on their regaining possession of their property, and continued to occupy the castle, with a short interval during James II.'s rule <sup>(3)</sup>, when he

(1) *Memoranda Rolls*; Will of William Fitzwilliam of Dundrum; Ball Wright's "Ussher Memoirs," p. 49; Depositions of 1641 (John Higginson of Rathfarnham); Letter of Robert Bysshe, MS. F. 3. 11, in Trinity College Library; Diocesan Records; Carte Papers, vol. xix., f. 512, vol. clxiv., ff. 297, 331.

(2) *Crown Rental*; *Fleetwood's Survey*; *Hearth Money Roll*; *Census of 1659*; *Subsidy Rolls*.

(3) See an account of a find of James II.'s brass money at Kingstown, near Dundrum, by the late Dr. William Frazer in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiii., p. 164.

sought safety beyond the seas, until his death. This took place at Dundrum in 1700, when he had attained a patriarchal age, and he passed away surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. His only surviving son, Alderman Eliphal Dobson, the most wealthy Dublin publisher and bookseller of his day, succeeded to the occupation of the castle. Like his father, he was a Nonconformist, a member of the congregation worshipping at New Row, in Dublin, but we are told that "he valued no man for his starched looks or supercilious gravity, or for being a Churchman, Presbyterian or Independent, provided he was sound in the main points wherein all good men are agreed." He had the misfortune to lose one of his legs, and was remarkable for the possession of a



**Dundrum Castle in 1802.**

*From a Plate in "The Literary and Masonic Magazine."*

wooden substitute, which creaked horribly. The first Bible printed in Ireland was one which bears his name in the imprint, and in his will he bequeaths to Trinity College near Dublin one of the best folio Bibles printed by him to be preserved in the Library, as well as a legacy of ten pounds to buy other books.

The castle grounds in his time were greatly improved, and the castle must have presented quite an attractive appearance standing in a flower garden laid out with trim box borders and neatly-cut yew trees, with a pleasure ground and kitchen garden adjacent, all of these being surrounded by a grove of ash trees and sloping down to the river, which then was a more picturesque object than it is in

the present day. As the owner of the surrounding lands, Alderman Dobson was an important person, and, as one who could afford such luxuries as well-furnished houses, plate, books, horses and carriages, was regarded, no doubt, with great awe by the villagers as he proceeded to and from the castle in his heavy cumbersome coach. The castle and grounds were left by Alderman Dobson (who was buried on St. Patrick's Day, 1720, in St. Werburgh's Church, Dublin), to his widow, with remainder to his eldest son, Isaac Dobson, of whom we have seen under Donnybrook, and after her death they were leased by Isaac Dobson to "an eminent silk weaver and a man of unspotted character." Thomas Reynolds, whose descendant and namesake bore an infamous part in the Rebellion of 1798. Although the castle was partly inhabited until the close of the eighteenth century, it was gradually falling into decay, and Austin Cooper, who visited it in 1780, found it in possession of an owner whose object was profit rather than beauty, and who was then cutting down the grove of ash trees. Several sketches of the castle were made by Gabriel Beranger, who describes it as having been very picturesque, with a grand entrance by stone stairs from the courtyard (1).

The principal resident at Dundrum in the latter half of the eighteenth century was the brother of the first Earl of Lanesborough, the Hon. John Butler, M.P. for Newcastle, who resided in Wickham, then called Primrose Hill. During his representation of Newcastle, which extended over a period of forty years, he displayed a most zealous attachment to the King's government and person, and received on more than one occasion the thanks of public bodies for his efforts in the public weal. His death took place at Dundrum in the year 1790, when he had attained the age of eighty-three years, and Wickham passed from his family into the possession of Mr. John White, a barrister of eminence, whose claim to a baronetcy led to his being sometimes styled Sir John White, and was subsequently the residence successively of the late Sir Robert Kane and of the late Sir Edward Hudson-Kimahan. In the middle of the eighteenth century, in 1766, there were only seven residents

(1) *Transactions of Royal Irish Academy*, A., vol. xxiv., pp. 46, 410; 14th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland, App., p. 41; Depositions of 1611; Gilbert's "Ancient Records of Dublin," vol. iv., p. 26; King's "State of the Protestants of Ireland under James II.," p. 353; Wills of the Dobson family; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. i., p. 13; Madden's "History of Irish Periodical Literature," vol. i., p. 171; Hughes' "History of St. Werburgh's," p. 126; "Dundrum Castle and its owners," in the *Irish Builder* for 1897, p. 162; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; *Poor's Occurrences*, vol. lii., No. 17; Seward's "Topographiæ Hibernicæ"; Cooper's Note Book; Wilde's "Memoir of Gabriel Beranger"; "Life of Thomas Reynolds."

besides Mr. Butler of importance in the whole parish of Taney, namely, Lord Fitzwilliam, at Mount Merrion; Anthony Foster, afterwards Chief Baron of the Exchequer, at Merville; Hugh Carmichael, Dudley Rogers, James Crowe, John Hunt, and Richard Thwaites, and the total number of dwellings was only sixty-six. Amongst the other inhabitants we find names which are still familiar, including those of Moulds, Messit, and Rinkle <sup>(1)</sup>.

Dundrum was then a small village chiefly remarkable for being on the high road to Powerscourt. It had a reputation, though not in an equal degree with Carrickmines, as a health resort—a reputation which it regained at the beginning of the nineteenth century—and lodgings where goats' milk could be obtained were advertised. Some of the deaths announced as taking place at Dundrum are possibly those of persons who sought benefit from the mild climate; amongst these we find, in 1756, the wife of Anthony Perry, master of Lucas's Coffee House; in 1757, Lieutenant John Kellie, of Lord George Forbes' Regiment of Foot; in 1760, Mr. William Litton, a silk weaver; and in 1771, the wife of Mr. Shea, a linen draper. Some years later in 1787 the discovery of a mineral spring near Ticknock was announced, but, in spite of a strong recommendation of its efficacious qualities, it had only a short-lived popularity. A few houses near the old churchyard formed a separate village known as Churchtown, and the only other neighbouring village of any importance was Windy Arbour, on the road to Dublin, where there was a lodging house in which the first Lord Cloncurry stayed in early life <sup>(2)</sup>.

The lawless and defenceless state of the vicinity of Dublin is indicated by more than one outrage near Dundrum. A house at Churchtown was in 1780 broken into by four masked robbers armed with swords and pistols; a gentleman returning on horseback from the fair at Donnybrook was in 1788 stopped near the castle by two highwaymen; a coffin containing the body of a man supposed to have been murdered was in 1790 left on a false pretext with the grave-digger; the house of Mr. Valentine Dunne, whose business premises were in Castle Street, Dublin, was in 1798 broken into

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<sup>(1)</sup> *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xl., No. 85; vol. lviii., No. 83; vol. lix., No. 97; vol. lxi., No. 6270; *Exshaw's Magazine* for 1790, p. 56; Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 152, 176; Religious Returns of 1766; *Anthologia Hibernica* vol. i., p. 323.

<sup>(2)</sup> Lewis's "Guide to Dublin," pp. 104, 129; Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," p. 210; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. liii., No. 70, vol. liv., No. 66; vol. lvii., No. 36; vol. lxvi., No. 6790; vol. lxviii., No. 7051; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1787-1788, p. 424; FitzPatrick's "Life of Lord Cloncurry," p. 37.



and plundered; and a farmer called Ennis in the same year of rebellion was forced to leave his house near the Three Rock Mountain after it had been three times robbed (1).

Towards the close of the eighteenth century Dundrum was the home of Mr. John Giffard, who took a prominent part in the political affairs of his time as a strong supporter of the Union, and who has the distinction of being the grandfather of the present Lord Chancellor of England, the Earl of Halsbury. There Mr. Giffard's sons, Sir Ambrose Hardinge Giffard, Chief Justice of Ceylon, and Stanley Lees Giffard, many years editor of *The Standard*, and father of Lord Halsbury, passed their early life. At Churchtown the Hon. William Tankerville Chamberlaine, a Justice of the King's Bench, one of the most eminent members of the judiciary of his day, and Mr. Edward Mayne, who subsequently became a judge of the same court, were at that time residing, and amongst other inhabitants in the immediate vicinity of Dundrum were Mr. Stephen Stock, a brother of the Bishop of that name, and a man of exemplary charity; Mr. Daniel Kinahan, ancestor of a family still identified with the parish; and Alderman Nathaniel Hone, sometime Lord Mayor of Dublin (2).

## BALALLY.

THESE lands, which lie between those of Dundrum and the parish of Kilgobbin, were the site of a castle, and of a church, remains of which were until recently to be seen in the grounds of Moreen. In the opinion of the late Professor Stokes the name is a derivation of Irish words meaning the town of Olave, a famous Danish saint, and had its origin in a Danish settlement represented afterwards by the Harolds, a clan rivalling the Walshes in the extent of their mountain lands. A tradition existed in the neighbourhood a century ago that the church had been erected by two families which had engaged in desperate conflict near its site, and which had agreed, on their revenge being satiated, to erect a church there, known a hundred years ago as the Cross Church of Moreen.

(1) *Hibernian Magazine* for 1780, p. 118, and 1798, p. 732; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788-1789, p. 423; Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," p. 215.

(2) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 103, 112, 120, 130, 143.

The lands of Balally were given in 1279 to John de Walhope, an old and valued servant of the Crown, and twenty years later were in the occupation of John Othyr. After having been, about 1334, in the possession of Maurice Howell and Gregory Taunton, already mentioned as tenants to the Priory of the Holy Trinity for the lands of Cabinteely and Brenanstown, the lands of Balally came into the possession of the Walshes of Carrickmines. Like other lands bordering on the mountains, those of Balally suffered much from "wars and casualties of fortune," and in a grant from the Crown in 1407 to William Walsh it was conditioned that he should build a small castle upon them. Although a considerable time elapsed before its completion, this castle was ultimately erected, and became the residence of a branch of the Walsh family. In 1546 Thomas Walsh, who was then in possession of three houses and eighty-one acres in Balally, besides the castle, died there, and was succeeded by his son, John, then a minor; in 1597 William Walsh was in possession, and in 1641 James Walsh was seized of the castle and lands, as well as of those of Edmondstown, near Rathfarnham <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Walshes of Balally, as adherents of the Roman Catholic Church, had its services regularly performed, possibly in the ancient church, and in 1630 the Rev. John Cahill, mentioned as parish priest of Donnybrook, was commonly the celebrant. After James Walsh's death in 1646 his son, Henry, disposed of Balally for £700 to Mr. John Borr, of Dublin, but during the Commonwealth, when there was a population of seven persons of English and eleven of Irish descent inhabiting eight houses, the Parliament seized upon the lands and leased them to Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Dobson, of Dundrum. After the Restoration Mr. John Borr was successful in establishing his right to the lands before the Commissioners of Settlement, and subsequently occupied the castle, which contained three hearths, as his country residence. He was the son of Christian Borr, a naturalised German, who, having come to Ireland early in the seventeenth century, had amassed a large fortune as a merchant, trading principally in the export of beef and import of corn, wine, and salt, and in whose will piety and business are quaintly mingled in the direction that his body should be buried in "a comely but not costly manner" near his pew door in St. Kevin's Church, Dublin, and in closing a long list of debtors

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<sup>(1)</sup> Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," p. 14; Post Chaise Companion; Plea Rolls; Sweetman's Calendar; Patent Rolls, pp. 39, 249; Exchequer Inquisition, Henry VIII., No. 191; Fleetwood's Survey.

with the prayer that Providence may direct them to discharge their considerations. Mr. John Borr, who built a great house known as "Borr's Court," near Christ Church Cathedral, added to the wealth which he had inherited from his father, and his son, Mr. Christian Borr, father of several sons who met with sad and untimely ends, occupied a good social position in Dublin (1).

In the latter part of the eighteenth century the villas which border the high road through Balally began to be erected. Moreen, then described as a neat, compact house, was built, and its grounds laid out with much trouble and expense on the rocky land, by Mr. William McKay, a legal official, whose descendants are still recollected for their prowess in the hunting field in days when hares and foxes abounded in the wilds of Carrickmines and Foxrock. Amongst other residents were Mr. Faithful William Fortescue, M.P. for Monaghan; Mr. Robert Turbett, ancestor of the family still identified with Dundrum; and Mr. William Ridgeway, an eminent lawyer, whose name will be found as counsel for the Crown in many of the leading prosecutions of the period, particularly in that of Robert Emmet, and whose reports of cases are still of value to lawyers (2).

## ROEBUCK.

THE lands of Roebuck, or Rabo, as they were anciently called, which lie between Donnybrook and Dundrum, were the site of a castle, which stood from very early times on the ground now occupied by the modern Roebuck Castle, the handsome seat of Mr. Francis Vandeleur Westby, D.L.

Soon after the Anglo-Norman Conquest the lands, which were originally of greater extent than at present, became a manor with a chief residence, and at the beginning of the fourteenth century permission was given to the owner to keep game in his demesne on them. They were then estimated to contain three carucates, valued at £9, being at the rate of 6*l.* an acre, and the owner had sixty

(1) Archbishop Bulkeley's Report, p. 148; Rolls of Innocents; Census of 1659; Crown Rental Hearth Money Roll; Patent Rolls, vol. i., p. 366; Wills of the Borr family; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. i., p. 238; "Some Notes on Balally," in the *Irish Builder* for 1898, p. 41.

(2) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Tancy," pp. 111, 134, 140, 148; "Dictionary of National Biography," (for Ridgeway), vol. xlviii., p. 281.



Roebuck Castle in 1795.  
*From a Plate in "The Sentimental and Masonic Magazine."*



acres under corn and twelve plough teams. Clonskeagh, or the meadow of the white thorn bushes, now a village on the Dodder known for its iron works, is mentioned in 1316 as belonging to the owners of Roebuck, and then contained a mill. By Henry II. the lands of Roebuck were granted, together with the somewhat distant manor of Cruagh, to Thomas de St. Michael, and after passing through the hands of David Basset, a member of a great Norman family, came in 1261 into the possession of Fromund le Brun, then Chancellor of Ireland, from whom they descended to Sir Nigel le Brun, who was given in 1304 the right of free warren. Under these owners the lands were held by a family which took its cognomen from the place, and a member of which, Otho de Rabo, acted as bailiff in legal proceedings for Sir Nigel le Brun.

The succession of owners for the next two centuries is almost complete. In 1315 Fromund, son of Sir Nigel le Brun, was in possession; in 1377 Sir Thomas, son of Sir Fromund le Brun; in 1382 Francis, son of Sir Thomas le Brun; and in 1420 Sir John, son of Francis le Brun. Sir John le Brun had two sons, Christopher and Richard; Christopher died before his father, leaving two children, a son, Christopher, who died shortly after his grandfather, and a daughter, Elizabeth. For a time the lands appear to have been in possession of Sir John's second son, Richard le Brun, but ultimately they became vested in his granddaughter, Elizabeth, and by her marriage to Robert Barnewall, first Baron of Trimlestown, passed into possession of the latter family, which continued to own Roebuck until the beginning of the nineteenth century (1).

It has been stated that the Castle of Roebuck, now partly incorporated in the modern house, was the residence of John, third Baron of Trimlestown, who was Chancellor of Ireland in the reign of Henry VIII., but it seems probable that it owed its construction to Robert, fifth Baron of Trimlestown—“a rare nobleman, endowed with sundry good gifts”—whose initials, with those of his wife, Anne Fyan, it bore. During the rebellion of 1641 the castle, then in possession of Matthew, eighth Baron Trimlestown, who served as an officer in the Confederate Army, was destroyed, and in the time of the Commonwealth the lands and manor of Roebuck, together with Clonskeagh and a mill, were held by one Edward Barry, whom Colonel Arthur Hill sought to dispossess. The principal occupant of the lands at that time was Mr. William Nally—said to have been

(1) “The Norman Settlement in Leinster,” by James Mills in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv., p. 167; *Plea-Justiciary and Memoranda Rolls*; *Sweetman's Calendar*; *Burke's Peerage under Trimlestown*.

an ancestor of the notorious Leonard MacNally, the lawyer—whose death in 1669 is recorded on one of the oldest tombstones in Donnybrook Churchyard. In 1652 Nally was ordered to attend a perambulation of lands in the neighbourhood of Dublin taken under the protection of the Commonwealth, and in 1664 he was occupying a house rated as containing two hearths, which was probably portion of the castle. Besides the lands of Roebuck, Nally held, under the Fitzwilliams, the adjoining lands of Owenstown, now forming part of Mount Merrion. The population of Roebuck and Owenstown is returned about that time as seven persons of English and forty-two persons of Irish extraction (1).

The castle was in a ruinous condition in the eighteenth century, which renders it improbable that James II. lodged there, as has been stated, after his arrival in 1689 in Ireland. Austin Cooper, on visiting it in 1781, found only a small portion roofed, which was used as a storehouse by a farmer who resided in a small house close by. In Cooper's opinion the castle was originally a large one, forming two sides of a square, and upon it, he mentions, were engraved in stone the arms of the Barnewalls, as well as the letters R. B. A. F. and the name Robert. At the beginning of that century a bleach yard existed on the lands of Roebuck as well as mills at Clonskeagh, and advertisements appeared from time to time of the castle farm as affording excellent accommodation for a dairyman, proposals for which were to be made to Lord Trimlestown at his seat near Trim or at his Dublin house in Mary Street. The Dublin Volunteers in 1784 selected Roebuck as one of their camping grounds, and in 1789, when there was a great uproar about an attempt to close the footpath from Milltown to Clonskeagh, the vicinity of Roebuck Castle was chosen as a retired place to fight a duel, which was happily amicably adjusted, not, however, before shots had been exchanged (2).

Of the country seats which adorn the neighbourhood, the first in date was Merville, in Foster's Avenue, now the residence of Mr. J. Hume Dudgeon. This fine old house, which forms three sides of a square, and has out-offices of a most extensive kind, was

(1) D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 809; Burke's Peerage under Trimlestown; Fleetwood's Survey; Crown Rental; "Loftus's Court Martial Book," preserved in Marsh's Library; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 90, 197, 434; Hearth Money Roll; Census of 1659.

(2) D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 810; Cooper's Note Book; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; *Puc's Occurrences*, vol. xxxvi., No. 31; vol. xxxix., No. 56; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 1846, 1851, 6845; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1789-1790, pp. 120, 295.

built about the middle of the eighteenth century by the Right Hon. Anthony Foster, Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, and father of the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, whose connection with the place is commemorated in the name of the magnificent avenue in which it stands. Chief Baron Foster, whose ability and social gifts in early life attracted the attention of that acute observer, Mrs. Delany, was one of the first persons of position in Ireland to interest himself in a practical manner in the improvement of agriculture and in the development of her industries. He has been styled by Arthur Young, who visited him on his estate at Collon in the County Louth, where his operations exceeded anything Young could have imagined, as a prince of improvers, but few would dare to put in practice his theory that raising rents tended to improve the condition of the tenantry by quickening their industry, setting them to search for manures, and making them better farmers. While a practising barrister, when he occupied a seat in Parliament, first as member for the borough of Dunleer and afterwards for the County Louth, Foster rendered services to the linen manufacture by amending the laws affecting it. For this he was rewarded by the presentation of an address in a gold box and a magnificent piece of plate. He manifested throughout his life the utmost interest in the trade of Ulster.

After his death in 1778 his son, the Speaker, occupied Merville for some years, but ultimately sold it to Sir Thomas Lighton, on whom a baronetcy, still held by his descendant, was conferred. Sir Thomas Lighton, who is buried in Taney graveyard, had in early life a career of extraordinary adventure in India, which resulted in his making a large fortune, and after returning to his native land, he settled down in Dublin as a banker, and obtained a seat in Parliament, first as a member for Tuam and afterwards for Carlingford. He was succeeded soon after his death in 1805, at Merville, then said to have one of the best gardens in Ireland, by the Right Hon. William Baron Downes, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, a lawyer of the first distinction, and a great friend of Judge Chamberlaine, already mentioned as a resident at Dundrum, with whom he was buried by his own desire in St. Ann's Church, Dublin. Subsequently Merville passed into the possession of Lieutenant-General Henry Hall, C.B., a distinguished Indian military officer and administrator (1).

(1) Religions Returns of 1766; "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. ii., p. 353; vol. iii., p. 460; Young's "Tour in Ireland," edited by A. W. Hutton, vol. i., p. 110; *Essex's Magazine* for 1764, p. 395, and 1765, p. 126; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 27, 125, 168, 173, 223; London's "Encyclopedia of Gardening," Lon., 1830, pp. 88, 1095; Blacker's Sketches, pp. 91, 122, 319.

Other villas began to be built towards the close of the eighteenth century, and amongst their first occupants were Alderman John Exshaw, publisher of the magazine called by his name, whose mayoralty was attended with much splendour, and who covered himself with military glory during the Rebellion; James Potts, the proprietor of *Saunders's News Letter*, who resided at Richview, and had an encounter with Mr. John Giffard, the owner of a rival organ, outside the door of Taney Church; Mr. Alexander Jaffray, one of the first directors of the Bank of Ireland; Dr. Robert Emmet, father of Thomas Addis Emmet and Robert Emmet, who resided at Casino; and Mr. Henry Jackson, who started the iron works at Clonskeagh, and had to flee from Ireland on account of his complicity in the Rebellion. Before the close of that century the Castle of Roebuck was rebuilt by Thomas, thirteenth Baron of Trimlestown, and was subsequently occupied successively by Mr. James Crofton, an official of the Irish Treasury, and his son, Mr. Arthur Burgh Crofton, who were both Commissioners for the construction of Kingstown Harbour. After the death of the latter the castle was taken by Mr. Edward Perceval Westby, D.L., father of the present owner, on his marriage to a daughter of the Right Hon. Francis Blackburne, sometime Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who maintained by a lengthened residence at Roebuck Hall the connection of Roebuck, begun in the thirteenth century, with the holders of the Great Seal (<sup>1</sup>).

## MOUNT MERRION.

MOUNT MERRION, the Irish seat of the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, can compare in the beauty of its demesne with many of the great places in England, and has few rivals in Ireland. Entering by the high gates on the road from Dublin to Stillorgan, which face the broad avenue from Blackrock, a straight drive with wide borders of closely cut grass, and rows of lofty elms on either side, leads to the house, which is covered with creepers. Across the gravel sweep before the hall door, which faces the south, stand the great stables forming three sides of a square, and behind them lie the gardens entered through gates which recall the father of the

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(<sup>1</sup>) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 104, 110, 120, 138, 144, 151, 155, 175; *Dublin Chronicle* (for Exshaw), 1789-1790, pp. 56, 87, 528, 536, 615, 896; 1790-1791, pp. 128, 528.



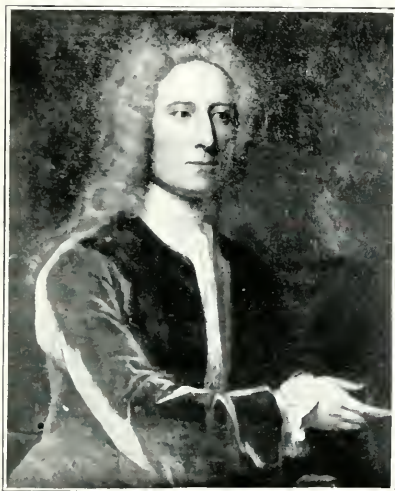


Mount Merrion House.  
*From a Drawing by William Ashford preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

present owner, the lamented Lord Herbert of Lea, whose monogram they bear. Beyond the house to the west, across a smooth lawn, is a thick wood, intersected with walks and adorned with temples and rural structures of various kinds, while through the park stretch away two drives, one disused and grass-grown leading under an archway of noble trees to Foster's Avenue, and the other, commanding lovely views of Dublin and its bay, leading to Mount Anville and Dundrum. A modern front of singularly poor design disfigures the original house, which was three storeys in height, while the front, as it stands on higher ground, is only of two, but through the verdure one sees peeping out tiers of quaint old-fashioned windows and a tiny belfry surmounting the western wall. In its style of architecture the original house resembled the existing stables, which bear the date 1711, and although of small extent it contained one or two fine rooms, now divided, with deep window seats, curious door frames, and moulded cornices, which show it to have been internally a handsome dwelling.

To Richard, fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam, who had succeeded in 1704 his father, Thomas, fourth Viscount Fitzwilliam, the last holder of the title mentioned in connection with Merrion Castle, the ancient home of the family, Mount Merrion House owed its construction, and the selection of the site, one of the most beautiful on his property, indicates that he was not insensible to the charms of scenery. The lands had been in the possession of his family from the fourteenth century. At the time of the Anglo-Norman Invasion, as has been mentioned in the history of Booterstown, they had formed portion of lands called Cnoero, or the Red Hill, which were assigned to Walter de Rideleford, Lord of Bray, but it was probably under the name of Owenstown that the greater portion of them came into possession of the Fitzwilliams of Dundrum about the same time as the latter place. In the sixteenth century the hill of Owenstown was selected as the place of assembly for a hosting or review of the levies of the Pale, and there, on at least one occasion, the proprietors, who held their lands by military tenure, drew out their followers in martial array. The fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam, who had found a wife—a daughter of Sir John Shelley, of Michelgrove, in Sussex, the family to which the poet Shelley belonged—in England, was a man of considerable ability, although of unattractive manners. He was inspired with an ardent desire to take an active part in public life, and with that object, having conformed to the Established Church, took his seat in 1710 in the Irish House of Lords. It was then his intention to make Ireland his home, and

as the Castle of Merrion had become uninhabitable, he commenced the erection of Mount Merrion House as a country seat. From that time, for many years, with the exception of one session, he continued to attend assiduously in Parliament, and from references to him in connection with a rivalry which existed between him and his near neighbours, the Allens of Stillorgan, it is evident that he was one of the most prominent of the Irish peers in the politics of his day (1).



Richard, 5th Viscount Fitzwilliam.



Frances, wife of 5th Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From Portraits preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

Amongst Fitzwilliam's friends was the learned and good Archbishop of Dublin, William King, and on more than one occasion the Archbishop availed himself of the calm and repose which Mount Merrion afforded for literary work. At the time of Queen Anne's death the Archbishop was staying there and seeking relief in the revision of his book, on *The Inventions of Men in the Worship of God*, from the annoyance to which he was subjected as a supporter of the succession of the House of Hanover, and from his other cares, the non-residence of the clergy, the want of churches and of money

(1) D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 701; Lodge's Peerage, vol. iv., p. 319; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. lii., p. 31; "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. i., p. 204; Journals of the Irish House of Lords; Coxe's "Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole," vol. ii., pp. 359, 362

to pay incumbents—as in the case of the neighbouring Church of Stillorgan—and, in a less degree, the management of the choir which then served both the Dublin Cathedrals, and gave the Archbishop and the Deans great ado to keep in order. He was not long left undisturbed however, for on the accession of George I. he was appointed, with the Earl of Kildare, then staying with his brother-in-law, Colonel Allen of Stillorgan, a Lord Justice. One of the first uses which they made of their power was to obtain the admission of their hosts to the Privy Council board, with, in the case of Lord Fitzwilliam, the further honour of appointment as Vice-Admiral of the Province of Leinster (1).



**Hon. William Fitzwilliam, 2nd son of Richard,  
5th Viscount Fitzwilliam.**

*From a Portrait by Thomas Gainsborough preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

At Mount Merrion the fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam's children, who were baptized in St. Andrew's Church, Dublin, passed their early life, and in a large picture preserved there his three sons are depicted as boys playing in the grounds. The eldest, Richard, succeeded him; the second, William, who appears to have been a man of great social charm, passed his life in London, where he died at

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(1) Mant's "History of the Church of Ireland," vol. ii., pp. 271-277; Archbishop King's Correspondence preserved in Trinity College Library; Letter from Archbishop King to Dr. Charlett in Ballard Manuscripts (10,794, f. 33), preserved in the Bodleian.



the close of the eighteenth century (1); and the third, John, who made a most extraordinary disposition of his property, amounting to £100,000, a great part of which he left to his servant, was a distinguished officer, who attained to the rank of General, and represented Windsor for some years in Parliament (2). Besides his three sons, the Viscount had two daughters, of whom the elder married first, Henry, ninth Earl of Pembroke, an alliance to which the Earls of Pembroke owe their Irish estate, and secondly, although accounted one of the proudest dames of quality of her day, a commoner, Major North Ludlow Bernard (3); and the younger married George, second Baron Carbery. About the year 1726, when as an Irish peer he succeeded in obtaining a seat in the English House of Commons as member for Fowey, in Cornwall, the fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam went to reside permanently in England, probably attracted thither by the wider field for a political life, and possibly in some degree influenced by his wife's desire to live in her own country. In England he became one of the *entourage* of the Prince of Wales, shortly afterwards to ascend the throne as George II., and his family became favourites at Court. His third son, John, was appointed a page of honour, and his eldest daughter, afterwards the Countess of Pembroke, a maid of honour, in which capacity she is mentioned by Lady Hervey in describing the ladies of the Court under the guise of books, as a volume neatly bound and well worth perusing, called *The Lady's Guide or the Whole Art of Dress*. A few years later Lady Fitzwilliam, who was a Roman Catholic, separated from her husband and entered a convent abroad, where she remained for twenty years, until after her husband's death (4).

(1) See letters from the Hon. William Fitzwilliam to Eleazer Davy, British Museum, Add. MS., 19,244, ff. 22-45.

(2) See letters from General the Hon. John Fitzwilliam and letter from Richard, sixth Viscount Fitzwilliam (Add. MS., 32,889, f. 223) in the Newcastle Papers in the British Museum; "Letters of Horace Walpole," edited by Peter Cunningham, vol. iii., p. 292; vol. ix., p. 205; "Correspondence of John, fourth Duke of Bedford," edited by Lord John Russell, vol. ii., p. 406; Manuscripts of Mrs. Frankland Russell Astley, pp. 256-258, 295, published by Historical Manuscripts Commission.

(3) "Letters of Horace Walpole," edited by Peter Cunningham, vol. ii., pp. 188, 270; "Correspondence of John, fourth Duke of Bedford," edited by Lord John Russell, vol. ii., p. 105.

(4) Return of Members of Parliament; British Museum, Add. MS., 32,707, f. 286; "Letters of Henrietta, Countess of Suffolk," vol. i., pp. 307, 322, 329, 334, 376, vol. ii., pp. 9, 18, 230; "Memoirs of Viscountess Sundon," by Mrs. Thomson, vol. i., p. 107; "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. i., pp. 201, 516; *Dublin Journal*, No. 2,677.

Soon after the fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam had settled in England Mount Merrion House was let to one of the Barons of the Irish Exchequer, the Honorable John Wainwright, a judge who is remarkable for having lost his life in discharging his official duties. He was an Englishman promoted in 1732 direct from the Bar of that country to the Irish Bench. In character he was discerning and discreet, with an even temper, attractive manners, and a most charitable disposition, and although he was advised to let his attempts at English verse cool, he was a scholar of no mean attainments. His friends included many persons of note in that day—Pelham Holles, Duke of Newcastle, whose schoolfellow he had been at Westminster School, and in whose correspondence a number of letters from Wainwright written in a fine bold hand are preserved; Mrs. Clayton, the confidential friend of Queen Caroline, whom he styles his guardian angel; Bishop Berkeley, whom he thought of accompanying to the Bermudas, and by whom the inscription on a monument which Wainwright erected in Chester Cathedral to his father and grandfather, both Chancellors of that diocese, is composed; the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Dorset, who was very civil and attentive to him; the Lord Lieutenant's Secretary, Bubb Dodington, who sought his advice; the unorthodox Bishop Clayton, who was his constant companion; and Dr. Stone, afterwards Primate of Ireland, who was another old Westminster boy. Not long after his arrival in Ireland Wainwright had narrowly escaped being shot in his town house in William Street by a Sheriff's officer, and was only spared to fall a victim to the famine fever of 1741, which he contracted while on the spring circuit in the crowded courts of Munster, where the pestilence raged with especial severity. He was hurried up to Mount Merrion House, but died there a few days later, when only fifty-two years of age, his body being taken to Chester, where it was received with marks of the most extraordinary respect, for interment beside his father's in Holy Trinity Church (1).

Almost immediately after Wainwright's death Mount Merrion was taken by the Lord Chancellor, Robert Jocelyn, who two years later was raised to the peerage as Baron Newport of Newport, in the County of Tipperary, a place in which he had acquired considerable property. Of Jocelyn's early history something has been

(1) *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xxix., Nos. 48, 71; vol. xxx., No. 44; vol. xxxviii., Nos. 30, 31; *Dublin Journal*, No. 155; Letters from Baron Wainwright in Newcastle Papers in British Museum; Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses"; "Memoirs of Viscountess Smdon," by Mrs. Thomson; Welch's "Scholars of Westminster"; Fraser's "Life of Berkeley," p. 215; Ormerod's "History of Cheshire," vol. i., p. 244; "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. i., p. 403; "Memoirs of Mrs. Letitia Pilkington," vol. i., p. 73.



The Stables of Mount Merrion House.  
*From a Drawing by William Ashford preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

already told in connection with his residence at Donnybrook. For seventeen years he occupied the woolsack, earning amongst his contemporaries the reputation of being a great and good Chancellor. During the protracted absences of the Lords Lieutenants Jocelyn acted invariably as one of the Lord Justices, who, owing to the difficulty of communication, were the real rulers of Ireland while in office, and were treated with all the state and ceremony accorded to the Viceroy. He was much interested in historical research and Irish antiquities, and for a time filled the President's chair of the



**Robert, Viscount Jocelyn, Lord Chancellor  
of Ireland.**

*From an Engraving published by T. Jefferys.*

"Physico-Historical Society," which numbered amongst its active members, Dr. Samuel Madden, the philanthropist; Thomas Prior, the founder of the Dublin Society; the curious Dr. Rutty; John Lodge, of genealogical fame; Charles Smith, the county historian, who speaks in the preface to his "History of Kerry" of Jocelyn's noble collection of manuscripts relative to Ireland; and Walter Harris, the editor of Ware's works, to whom Jocelyn was a most generous patron, and who left Jocelyn, "out of perfect gratitude," all his papers to dispose of at his discretion <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Lodge's Peerage, vol. iii., p. 269; Harris's "Life of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke," vol. iii., p. 109; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxix., p. 399; "Liber Munerum"; Minute Book of Physico-Historical Society, preserved in the Royal Irish Academy; "Memoirs and Letters of Ulick, Marquis of Clanricarde" (Lon., 1757) p. xix.; Will of Walter Harris.



To Mount Merrion, whenever official duties permitted, it was Jocelyn's delight to retire from his mansion in St. Stephen's Green, and in his rural retreat he contrived to spend no small portion of his time. There, attended by his friend and chaplain, Dr. Mann, afterwards Bishop of Cork, who resided constantly with him, and by his favourite servant, Mr. Wilde, his house steward, it was to Jocelyn the most agreeable relaxation to pass the day overseeing the haymakers or watching his horses, his cattle, and his dogs, as they wandered over the wide pastures. Lord Fitzwilliam must have found him an improving tenant; when a well was being sunk in the demesne, Lady Newport wrote to him that if the moles, as he called the workmen, failed to find water it would not be the first money thrown away; and after Jocelyn's death, when Mount Merrion was surrendered to its owner, difficulty was found in dividing his property from that of Lord Fitzwilliam. At Mount Merrion on Sunday evening Jocelyn kept open house for his friends—his Sunday Club, as it was named by him—chief amongst those thus received being Henry Singleton, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, one of the first lawyers of his day; John Bowes, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who succeeded Jocelyn as Chancellor, and was remarkable for his oratorical powers; Richard Mountney, no less distinguished as a scholar than as a Baron of the Exchequer; and William Yorke, one of the puisne judges, and afterwards Singleton's successor as Chief of the Common Pleas, who was a kinsman of Jocelyn's early friend, Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. Besides these, Robert Downes, Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, was a constant guest, and Lord Harrington, while Lord Lieutenant, on at least one occasion stayed at Mount Merrion <sup>(1)</sup>.

While living at Mount Merrion in 1748 Jocelyn had the misfortune to lose his first wife, the sister-in-law of Bishop Goodwyn, a truly amiable and charitable lady, who was interred in Irishtown Church, of which Dr. Mann was then the chaplain. His only son, afterwards the first Earl of Roden, who, in the words of Mrs. Delany, was "a very pretty man," and all a father could desire, and who, as part owner of a pack of hounds which was kennelled at Kilgobbin, enjoyed much popularity, was married some years later in 1752 to a daughter of Lord Limerick, afterwards Earl of Clanbrassil, a lady who was then supposed to have no great portion, but who eventually brought to her children a large estate.

(1) Lord Roden's Papers in the Public Record Office; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. vi, p. 58, vol. xxxix., p. 210.

After his son's marriage, Jocelyn took to himself a second wife, the handsome widow of the Earl of Rosse, of facetious fame, who, on his death-bed, caused a letter of good advice from his rector to be re-directed and sent to one of the most upright noblemen of his day. This alliance Mrs. Delany considered in every way calculated to put the Chancellor in good humour. He continued to make Mount Merrion his home; in 1754 he joined in the fund to repair the neighbouring Church of Stillorgan, and in July of the next year he entertained there the Lord Lieutenant, the fourth Duke of Devonshire. A few months later he was raised to the dignity of a Viscounty as Viscount Jocelyn, but only lived a short time to enjoy this honour and his domestic felicity, as the gout, to which he had long been subject, assumed a more acute form, and having gone to London for medical advice, he died there in December, 1756, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, as recorded on a monument to his memory in Sawbridgeworth Church, in Hertfordshire, where he was buried with his ancestors (1).

Mount Merrion House was now once more in the hands of its owner. The fifth Viscount Fitzwilliam, who had never returned to Ireland, had died in 1743 in Surrey, and had been succeeded by his eldest son, Richard, sixth Viscount Fitzwilliam. The latter had served in the army under his brother-in-law, the Earl of Pembroke, and although not on friendly terms with his father, is spoken of by Lord Chesterfield as an unexceptionable person. During his father's lifetime he had succeeded him in the office of Vice-Admiral of Leinster, and after his death he was made a Knight of the Bath and appointed a Privy Councillor. He married a daughter of a Dutch merchant, Sir Matthew Decker, Bart., who is best known as having feasted George I. on a pine apple (2) in his grand house in Richmond Green, and for his piety and benevolence, which were so great that a foolish scion of a noble house is related to have been persuaded by some wag that Decker was the author of St. Matthew's Gospel, and to have left him a large legacy on account

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(1) Blacker's Sketches, pp. 75, 280, 283; Brady's "Records of Cork," vol. iii., p. 80; "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany," vol. ii., p. 535; vol. iii., pp. 178, 311; O'Flanagan's "Lives of the Chancellors of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 78; Letters in the Newcastle Papers in the British Museum; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1787-1788, p. 246; *Dublin Gazette*, No. 398; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. iii., No. 60; Harris's "Life of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke," vol. ii., p. 50; vol. iii., p. 107; Clutterbuck's "History of Hertfordshire," vol. iii., p. 218.

(2) A picture of this pine apple painted by H. Watkins and dated 1720, hangs in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge; underneath is the following inscription: "Perenni Memoriae Matthaei Decker Baronetti et Theodori Netscher Armigeri strobilus hic regio convivio dignatus istius impensis Richmondie crevit hujus arte etiamnum crescere videtur."

of that excellent work. Although not forgetful "that property has its duties as well as its rights," the sixth Viscount Fitzwilliam was for many years returned as one of the absentees from Ireland, and it was not until the close of his life that he formed an intention of occupying Mount Merrion, which on more than one occasion had



Catherine, wife of 6th Viscount Fitzwilliam.

Richard, 6th Viscount Fitzwilliam.

*From Portraits by Prince Houre preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

been suggested as a country residence for the Lord Lieutenant. Then, possibly attracted by the beauty of the place, which had excited the admiration of Bishop Pococke and of a friend of Horace Walpole, and had been extolled by a poetical writer to the disparagement of Richmond, where the sixth Viscount had found a home in his father-in-law's house, he began to make alterations at Mount Merrion, including the building of the front of the house, which does little credit to the Irish workmen whom alone he employed, and the construction of the avenue to Mount Anville and of the present deer park, and there in 1776 he died <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Cokayne's "Complete Peerage," vol. iii., p. 384; British Museum, Add. MS., 24,137, p. 119; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xiv., p. 266; "Letters of Henrietta, Countess of Suffolk," vol. i., p. 293; "Letters of Horace Walpole," edited by Peter Cunningham, vol. i., pp. 301, 303; vol. viii., p. 58; *Poe's Occurrences*, vol. lxiv., Nos. 6555, 6576; vol. lxx., No. 6696; Pococke's "Tour in Ireland," edited by Professor G. T. Stokes, p. 163; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Report 8, App., pt. ii., p. 114; "Phoenix Park, a poem by the Author of Killarney" (Lon. 1772); *Freeman's Journal*, vol. xii., No. 4; *Ershaw's Magazine* for 1776, p. 384.

Mount Merrion House was then again let, and after having been occupied for a time by Mr. Peter La Touche, M.P. for the County Leitrim, it was taken by the Right Hon. John Fitzgibbon, then Attorney-General for Ireland, and afterwards Lord Chancellor, with the well-known title of Lord Clare, on his marriage to the sister of the renowned Jerusalem Whaley—a lady no less distinguished for her beauty, which attracted the attention of George IV., then Prince of Wales, than for her qualities of heart. Fitzgibbon's appointment to the custody of the Great Seal in 1789 was, on the ground of his being an Irishman, the occasion of great rejoicings, and addresses and freedoms of cities were showered upon him. His position gave occasion for the stately magnificence which was congenial to his character. Preparations for the celebration of the Prince of Wales's birthday at Mount Merrion were made in the most superb style, and great dinners and balls, at which the Lord Lieutenant was a constant guest, were given by Fitzgibbon and his wife. On his appointment as a Lord Justice his nephew was appointed as his Aide-de-Camp, and when visiting Limerick he was received with a guard of soldiers and general illuminations, and offered to knight the Mayor and Sheriffs. One of his possessions, which attracted much observation, was his state coach, which is now preserved in the National Museum of Ireland—a vehicle unparalleled for its splendour. Crowds flocked to see it as it lay in Fitzgibbon's stables in Baggot Street, at the back of his town house in Ely Place, where it was freely shown to all, the servants being forbidden to accept any gratuity for its exhibition. The panels are decorated with paintings executed by William Hamilton, a Royal Academician, at a fee of 500 guineas, and the total cost of the coach, which was built in London, is stated to have been 2,000 guineas (1).

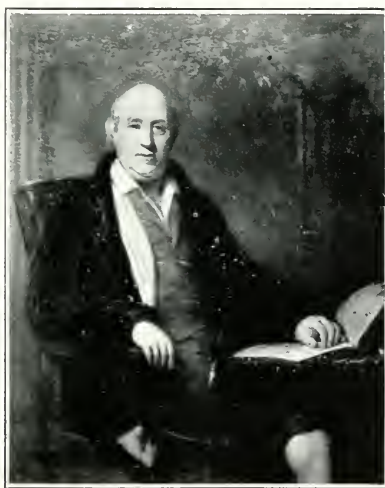
About the year 1793, when Fitzgibbon leased Blackrock House, Mount Merrion was again in the hands of its owners, Richard, seventh Viscount Fitzwilliam, who had succeeded to the titles in 1776 on his father's death. As founder of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, he is the best known member of his family. This princely gift to his *alma mater*, with which a romantic story has been connected of an unsuccessful attachment for a Cambridge lady, formed while he was a student in the quiet courts of Trinity Hall,

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(1) Dublin Almanacs; Burke's "Landed Gentry," edition 1847, p. 694; O'Flanagan's "Lives of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 195; "Auckland Correspondence," vol. ii., p. 231; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1789, pp. 394, 449; and 1794, p. 193; "The Mirror," and "The Promenade or Theatre of Beauty," preserved in the Holiday Pamphlets (vols. 538, 572) in Royal Irish Academy; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788-1789, p. 464; 1789-1790, pp. 184, 904; 1790-1791, pp. 65, 310, 480, 496, 544, 560, 648; 1791-1792, p. 527.



and of undying affection for the place—a story to which his continuance in the single state lends some probability—was one of almost unexampled munificence, including, as it did, both his vast collections of rare books and pictures, and a bequest of £100,000 for the erection and endowment of a museum. During part of his life he courted privacy, but he represented for a number of years, through the influence of his cousin, the Earl of Pembroke, the borough of Wilton in the English Parliament, and had the reputation of being not only a man of enlarged and liberal mind, but also of being one of a kind and compassionate disposition, who was easy of access to all. His home was at Richmond, in Sir Matthew Decker's house,



**Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam.**

*From a Portrait by Nathaniel Hone preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum*

but he was constantly on the move, earning from his uncle William, the character of being as unfixed as Mercury. His visits to Ireland were generally of short duration; on one occasion he accomplished the feat, a remarkable one in his time, of performing the journey there and back in fourteen days, but he found time on his visits to this country to extend his patronage to William Ashford, the first President of the Royal Hibernian Academy, by whom a number of paintings and drawings of Mount Merrion were executed. These are now preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum, and from them the accompanying views of the place are taken (1).

(1) "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xix., n. 229; Playfair's "Family Antiquity," vol. v., p. 44; British Museum Add. MS., 19,214, pp. 15, 17, 32; "Letters of Horace Walpole," edited by Peter Cunningham, vol. ix., pp. 266, 323, 328; also see for Ashford "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. ii., p. 169, and Blacker's Sketches, p. 410.



View in Mount Merriam Park.

*From a Drawing by William Ashford preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum.*

During the seventh Viscount's lifetime Mount Merrion House was occupied by Mr. Richard Verschoyle and by his wife, Miss Barbara Fagan, who was, as her mother had been before her, agent to Lord Fitzwilliam, and the seat is still shown in Mount Merrion where that lady used to sit and watch for her husband coming up the straight drive. To Mr. Verschoyle succeeded, as agent and as occupier of Mount Merrion, Mr. Cornelius Sullivan, of whose sporting proclivities old inhabitants have still recollections, and subsequently Mr. John Edward Vernon, to whom the Pembroke estate owes so much, and whose abilities were recognised in his appointment as one of the original Commissioners under the Irish Land Acts (1).

After the death of the seventh Viscount Fitzwilliam in 1816 his estate passed to his cousin, George Augustus, eleventh Earl of Pembroke and eighth Earl of Montgomery, the descendant of Queen Caroline's maid of honour, and the titles, after being held for a few years successively by his two brothers, became extinct. The eleventh Earl of Pembroke left his Irish estate to his second son, the great and good Sidney, Lord Herbert of Lea, whose sons, the thirteenth and fourteenth Earls of Pembroke, have since successively held the property (2).

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE great diversity in the spelling of the name Taney in ancient records must ever leave its origin a matter of speculation, and it is a subject for regret that the dedication of its first church is also lost in the obscurity of past ages (3). But it is established beyond question that before the Anglo-Norman Conquest a church stood at Dundrum on the site of what is now known as the old church—an eighteenth century structure—and that under the Celtic ecclesiastical arrangement the place was one of religious importance. It is said that it was the seat of one of the rural bishops, or chorepiscopi, and that the extensive rural deanery attached to Taney in the thirteenth century, which embraced such distant parishes as Coolock,

(1) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 149, 181; *Eesham's Magazine* for 1789, p. 569.

(2) "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxvi., p. 212; Cokayne's "Complete Peerage."

(3) See for attempts to identify the dedicatory saint, O'Hanlon's "Lives of the Irish Saints," vol. i., p. 408; vol. vii., p. 271, and Paper by Patrick J. O'Reilly in *Journal, R.S.A.L.*, vol. xxxii., p. 377.

Chapelizod, and Clonsilla, represented the limits of his authority. After the Anglo-Norman Conquest the Church of Taney, together with the portion of the lands of Churchtown, or Taney, assigned to the See of Dublin, was given to the Archbishop, and towards the close of the twelfth century Taney became a prebend in the newly-founded collegiate church of St. Patrick, which was soon afterwards created a cathedral establishment. Subsequently, in exchange for the Church of Lusk, the Church of Taney, then a mother church, with the chapels of Donnybrook, Rathfarnham, and Kilgobbin dependent on it, was granted to the Archdeacon of Dublin, and the prebend of Taney, which has been revived since the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, became merged in that dignity. From that time until 1851 the parish of Taney continued to be portion of the Archdeacon's corps, and was served, like Donnybrook, by curates appointed by him (1).

During the temporary dissolution of St. Patrick's Cathedral in the sixteenth century, William Power, the Archdeacon of Dublin, was given a pension as prebendary of Taney and Rathfarnham, and the revenue from those parishes was leased to Sir Richard Rede, and subsequently to Sir John Allen, who successively filled the office of Lord Chancellor, with the condition that fit chaplains should be found for the churches. The tithes which were levied on the townlands of Taney, Dundrum, Balally, Ballinteer, Roebuck, "the Chantrell Farm," and Callary, were valued at £19 per annum, and the glebe, on which there was a house, and which, with the fees and oblations, were assigned to the curate, was valued at 9s. Early in the seventeenth century the church was returned as in good repair and provided with books, but some years later it was stated to be in ruin. The parish was served generally by the Curate of Donnybrook. In 1615 the Rev. Robert Pont was in charge of the cure; in 1630 the Rev. Richard Prescott; in 1639 the Rev. Thomas Naylor, afterwards a prebendary of Ferns Cathedral; and in 1641 the Rev. George Hudson. The cure in 1647 was returned as vacant, and probably the church became quite unfit for use during the Commonwealth (2).

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(1) Dansey's "*Horic Decanarie Rurales*," vol. ii., p. 516; Reeves' "*Analysis of the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough*"; "*Crede Mihi*," edited by Sir John Gilbert, pp. 21, 136; Sweetman's *Calendar, 1302-1307*, p. 239; *Christ Church Deed No. 150*; Mason's "*History of St. Patrick's Cathedral*," p. 44.

(2) Mason's "*History of St. Patrick's Cathedral*," p. 44; *Fiant Edward VI.*, No. 32; *Regal Visitation of 1615*; *Archbishop Bulkeley's Report*, p. 154; *Diocesan Record*.



Under the Roman Catholic Church the parish, as we have seen, was within the Union of Donnybrook, and the Rev. John Cahill, who had charge of the union in the beginning of the seventeenth century, held services at Dundrum and at Balally. Nearly all the parishioners belonged to that faith—in 1630 there were only two Protestant householders—and under the protection of the chief residents, the Fitzwilliams and the Walshes, Mr. Cahill was able to perform the services of his church without interference <sup>(1)</sup>.

After the Restoration Tancy parish was generally placed in charge of the curate appointed to Donnybrook, and the church, in which at that time the Archbalds of Kilmacud found a burying place <sup>(2)</sup>, was allowed to remain in a state of dilapidation. At the beginning of the eighteenth century a church, now a ruin, was built at Kilgobbin, and curates were appointed at the liberal stipend of £35 a year and book money to the joint charge of Kilgobbin and Tancy, amongst them being, in 1753, the author of the "*Monasticon Hibernicum*," and editor of Lodge's "*Peerage of Ireland*," the Rev. Mervyn Archdall, who became subsequently a prebendary in the Ossory diocese. It was not until the middle of the eighteenth century that the structure now known as the old church of Tancy, which stands in the graveyard, and serves as a mortuary chapel, was erected through the exertions of Lord Chancellor Jocelyn's friend, Dr. Isaac Mann, who was in 1757 appointed Archdeacon of Dublin, and of his curate, the Rev. Jeremy Walsh, whom Dr. Mann nominated in 1758 to the charge of his parishes of Kilgobbin and Tancy. It is, externally, a singularly plain building, more resembling a barn than a church, and, internally, the original reading desk and pulpit, which still remain, rising above the Communion Table, show that it was equally devoid of ornament. It had, however, the distinction of being consecrated by the munificent Dr. Richard Robinson, then Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, and afterwards Primate, and a peer, with the title of Lord Rokeby, who performed the ceremony on Sunday, June 8, 1760, and a year later was used by the Bishop of Limerick, Dr. James Leslie, for an ordination, at which the Rev. Edward Ledwich, the antiquary, and the Rev. Beather King, afterwards Curate of Stillorgan, were admitted to the Order of Priest. But perhaps the most remarkable scene its

<sup>(1)</sup> Archbishop Bulkeley's Report, p. 154.

<sup>(2)</sup> The only tombstones of the seventeenth century in the graveyard of Tancy relate to members of this family. See Ball and Hamilton's "*Parish of Tancy*," pp. 27, 28.

walls ever witnessed was in July, 1787, when that famous orator, the Rev. Walter Blake Kirwan, not long after his reception into the Established Church, delivered one of his great sermons in support of the schools then lately founded in the parish, and when the congregation, in addition to their edification by "a finished piece of execution," were delighted by the "heavenly psalmody" of a choir brought from Dublin (1).



**The Old Church at Taney.**

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

After the erection of Taney Church the parish of Kilgobbin was given to another curate, and the Rev. Jeremy Walsh, who lived in the house now known as Whitehall, near Rathfarnham, where he married in 1778 the widow of Thomas Eyre, a member of the Irish Parliament, devoted his whole time to Taney parish. His successors continued to do the same, the appointments to the cure being as follows:—in 1787, the Rev. William Dwyer, who only remained a few months, and then went to Cork; and the Rev. Matthew Campbell, who served the parishioners faithfully for twenty-five

(1) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 24, 67, 244, 230; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lvii., No. 47; Reports on the Churches in the Diocese of Dublin preserved in the Parliamentary Papers in the Public Record Office; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1787-1788, pp. 286, 296, 297

years; in 1814 the Rev. Richard Ryan, a son-in-law of Mr. John Giffard, in whose time the present church of Taney was built; in 1820 the Rev. Henry Hunt, who was thanked, on the motion of Lord Downes, for his zeal in the parish, and was afterwards Vicar-General of the Elphin diocese; in 1821 the Rev. William Forde Vance and the Rev. James Bulwer, who was a most accomplished artist and writer, and who was subsequently beneficed in Norfolk, where he had charge of the Library at Blickling Hall; in 1824 the Rev. Henry Hamilton; in 1825 the Rev. Alexander Burrowes Campbell; in 1828 the Rev. John Prior, who was presented with a piece of plate in recognition of his activity and Christian benevolence; in 1834 the Rev. Samuel Henry Mason; in 1836 the Rev. Clement Archer Schoales; and in 1837 the Rev. William Henry Stanford, whose labours during his ministry of fifteen years was the subject of an eulogistic address. On his resignation the parish of Taney was severed from the Archdeaconry, and the subsequent appointments as rector have been—in 1851, the Rev. Andrew Noble Bredin; in 1857, the Rev. Edward Busteed Moeran; in 1867, the Rev. William Alfred Hamilton; in 1895, the Rev. John Joseph Robinson; and in 1900, the Rev. William Monk Gibbon <sup>(1)</sup>.

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(1) Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Taney," pp. 53, 69-86.

## Portion of the Parish of St. Peter, Dublin.

*(Formerly part of the Parish of St. Kevin.)*

The portion of the Parish of St. Peter lying outside the City of Dublin was, in ancient times included in the Manor of St. Sepulchre, and now comprises the modern Townlands of Baggotrath East, North, and West, Cullenswood, Harold's Cross East and West, Milltown, Portobello, Ranelagh North and South, and Rathmines East, South, and West.

### RATHMINES.

RATHMINES, which lies to the west of Donnybrook, and is now the largest suburb of the Irish metropolis, formed originally portion of the property of the See of Dublin, and was included within the Archbishop's manor of St. Sepulchre. At the beginning of the fourteenth century the Rath in the tenement of St. Sepulchre, previously held by Richard de Welton, came into the possession of a family called de Meones, and to this fact is due the name Meones' Rath, afterwards inverted into Rathmines. Some members of this family, supposed to have come over from Hampshire in the train of Archbishop John de Derlington, who was appointed to the See of Dublin in 1279, occupied a high position in Ireland. William de Meones, who was executor of Archbishop de Derlington, combined the clerical dignity of a Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral with the lay offices of Chamberlain and Baron of the Exchequer, and other members of the family acted as bailiff and Mayor of Dublin. In 1326 the Rath was held by Gilbert de Meones, a warrior, to whom one of his kinsmen bequeathed a corselet, and in 1382 by William de Meones, who styled himself Lord of Meonesrath. In addition to the Rath, the Meones family were tenants for other lands in the manor, known as the Stoneway and the Pass, the former being now represented by lands near Mount Argus, and the latter being on the east side of the old highway to Rathfarnham, now the road through Harold's Cross. They were also owners of a mill near the Dodder (1).

(1) "Notices of the Manor of St. Sepulchre in the Fourteenth Century," by James Mills, *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xix., pp. 31, 119; Manuscripts in Trinity College Library, No. 1207-26.



During the seventeenth century Rathmines had an eventful history. Soon after the arrival of the Earl of Strafford in 1633, the lands, which had been previously in the possession of the Barons of Howth, were selected by Strafford's friend and counsellor, Sir George Radcliffe, as the site of one of the great mansions which were projected during the rule of that masterful viceroy. In this case, unlike others, the house was actually completed. It stood close to the road through Old Rathmines, which was then the highway from Dublin to Dundrum, not far from the site of the modern Rathmines Castle, on the ground now lying between Palmerston Villas and Cowper Villas. Its value was estimated at £7,000, then an enormous amount, and it was, doubtless, as a contemporary writer says, a stately thing. There Radcliffe, who was the best of good fellows, as well as an able man, heartily welcomed his friends, and there under the guidance of Radcliffe's fowler, Strafford, who says he would have been the most solitary of men in Ireland without his friend, possibly indulged in his favourite sport of hawking, for which the surrounding country at that time was well adapted. But Radcliffe's residence at Rathmines was of short duration—in the autumn of 1639 he dated a letter there; a year later he was in prison in London—and in 1642 his house, which had passed safely through the previous winter of rebellion, was occupied by the wife and children of the Earl, afterwards Duke, of Ormonde, who was then commanding the army in Ireland. In August of that year, probably on account of a serious illness which Ormonde had at that time, his family moved into Dublin, and three days after they had left, the house was burned. Its destruction was generally attributed to marauding bands of the Irish Army, but some thought one of Ormonde's own household had been a party to it, and made much of the fact that the caretaker had fled, and that his wife was found dead (1).

Before the cessation in 1643 the neighbourhood of Rathmines was liable to incursions from the troops of the Confederate Army stationed in the County Wicklow. In April of that year Thomas Parnell, a goldsmith, of Dublin, was walking, as he subsequently deposed, in the fields which then lay near St. Kevin's Church, waiting for service to begin, when he was suddenly surprised by "a company of rebellious soldiers" under the command of Captain

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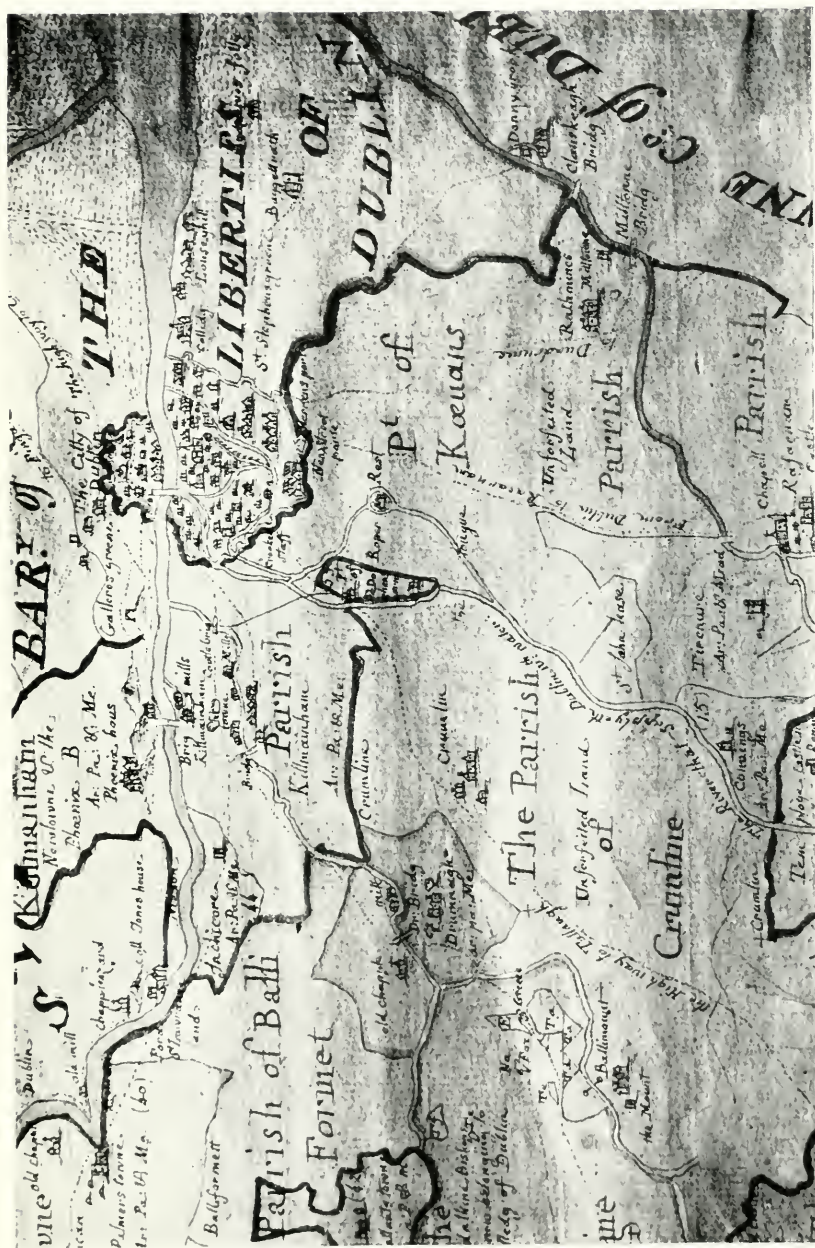
(1) Carte Papers, vol. ii., p. 472; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xlviii., p. 123; Down Survey Map; Ordnance Survey Map of 1837; D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 778; "Strafford's Letters," edited by William Knowler, vol. ii., p. 181; Depositions of 1641 (William Bridges of Harold's Grange); Calendar of Irish State Papers, 1633-1647, p. 224; "Memoirs and Letters of Clieq, Marquis of Clanricarde" (Lon 1757), p. 266.

Toole, and was carried away forcibly to Powerscourt. The next day he was taken to Arklow, where he was kept for twenty-six weeks a close prisoner, and often threatened with execution, "which bred great terror and fear in him." In September of that year, after the cessation had been concluded, a troop of horse and two companies of foot came within musket shot of trenches which had been made near St. Kevin's Church, and on their return, after killing a herd and wounding several others, drove before them into the County Wicklow all the cattle that they could find. The number of cattle driven off was estimated at 359 head, as well as 29 horses, which were also taken, and amongst them were nine cows belonging to the Archbishop of Dublin, which were grazing in a field near Harold's Cross. This act was a violation of the treaty of cessation, but in spite of the utmost efforts on the part of the authorities and of several journeys undertaken by the owners at the risk of their lives into the wilds of the County Wicklow, only a few of the cattle were recovered, and these not the best (1).

The summer of 1649 saw the great historic event with which this district is associated, and which has been already referred to in connection with Baggotrath, the Battle of Rathmines, resulting in the signal defeat of the Royalist Army under the command of the Marquis, afterwards Duke, of Ormonde, by the troops of the Parliament, then garrisoning Dublin, under the command of Colonel Michael Jones. It was in the immediate neighbourhood of Sir George Radcliffe's mansion on the ground now covered by Palmerston Park and the adjacent roads that Ormonde encamped his troops on moving from Finglas, where he had lingered in a state of fatal inaction for many weeks. There on the 27th July, at a council of war, attended, under the presidency of the Lord-General, by Lord Inchiquin, his Lieutenant-General; Lord Castlehaven, the General of the Horse; Lord Taaffe, the Master of the Ordnance; General Thomas Preston, the well-known commander of the Confederate Army; Sir Arthur Aston, who fell a few weeks later in the massacre at Drogheda; Sir William Vaughan, Major-General of the Horse; and Major-General Patrick Purcell, Major-General of the Foot; the disastrous decision was made to despatch Lord Inchiquin with two regiments of horse to Munster, where it was apprehended Cromwell would land, as well as the determination to take Rathfarnham Castle, then garrisoned by the Parliament, which was successfully accomplished the next day.

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(1) Depositions of 1641 (Thomas Parnell, John Johnson, Robert Parry, and John Davies of the City of Dublin).



Dublin and its vicinity at the time of the Battle of Rathmines.

*From the Down Survey Map.*



At Rathmines another council of war was held on August 1st, at which it was decided to fortify Baggotrath Castle if practicable, and from Rathmines, after an inspection and favourable report had been made by Lord Castlehaven, General Preston, and Major-General Purcell, a body of troops under the command of the last-named set out that evening to execute the work. In his tent at Rathmines, Ormonde sat up all night in order to be ready for an attack should one be made, and to complete despatches which he was preparing to send off to France to Charles II.; and from there at daybreak next morning he rode down to Baggotrath to see what progress had been made with the work of fortification. At Rathmines, after his return some hours later, while taking in his tent a few moments' repose, he was awakened by the sound of firing, and, on rushing out of his tent, found, before he had gone many yards, that the soldiers at Baggotrath had been driven off, that Sir William Vaughan had been killed while gallantly leading some of the cavalry to their support, and that Vaughan's troop, as well as others which had been placed between Baggotrath and Rathmines, had been routed.

The land between the Donnybrook Road and the road through Old Rathmines was then divided into fields, and Ormonde's camp was approached from them by narrow lanes. These it would have been easy to defend, but owing to treachery and inefficiency, which, doubtless, existed in an army composed largely of deserters from the Parliament ranks, and officered in many cases by Irishmen more conspicuous for their loyalty than for skill in arms, no attempt was made to do so, and it is even said that barriers which had been placed in the lanes were removed. The Parliament commander, Colonel Michael Jones, pushed on the advantage which he had gained until the right wing of Ormonde's army was completely defeated. As soon as Ormonde perceived, as he tells us himself, that the troops of which that wing were composed were running away towards the hills of Wicklow, where some of them had been born and bred, and the way to which they knew only too well, he turned his attention to the centre of his army, composed of foot, which had served under Lord Inchiquin, and which were then commanded by Colonel Giffard. To its support he brought other troops under the command of his brother, Colonel Richard Butler, and Colonel Reyley, but these failed him, and on Colonel Giffard's men being attacked from behind by a troop of Colonel Jones' horse, which approached them by a lane which ran from Milltown to what is now the Ranelagh Road, and in front by a party of Colonel Jones' foot, they gave way and accepted quarter.

As a last resort, Ormonde, jumping his horse over a ditch, made for the left wing of his army, which, probably, was stationed between Radeliffe's house and Rathgar, and which Ormonde had not called to his assistance, as there was a reserve of the Parliament Army in front of them, but he found that news of the defeat of the right wing and centre of the army had reached them, and that, thinking themselves deserted, they were making good their escape. After several fruitless attempts to rally them, Ormonde, who had displayed much personal bravery, and whose armour had alone saved him from a wound, or even death, made off himself towards the County Kildare, leaving the Parliament forces in possession of the field. The victory was a decisive one, and in the fulness of their rejoicing the Parliament proclaimed that they had slain 4,000 of Ormonde's army, and had taken 2,517 prisoners, many of high rank, in addition to seven cannon, many transport waggons, two hundred draught oxen, and a camp furnished, as they represented it, with great store of provisions and wine, and with all manner of silk, velvet, and scarlet cloth, which also fell into their hands. This account is much exaggerated, and the total number of men under Ormonde's command cannot have much, if at all, exceeded the combined numbers returned as killed and taken prisoners; but it is equally impossible to rely on the Royalist reports which, while calling the battle a drawn engagement, and a night surprise, give the number killed on their side as not more than 600. After the battle some of the English Royalist troops took refuge within the walls of Radeliffe's house and made so gallant a defence that it was not for some days that they laid down their arms, and then only did so on promises of safety for their lives (1).

During the Commonwealth the population of Rathmines, including the residents in Sir George Radeliffe's house, which was restored and was rated for taxation as containing six hearths, was returned as only six persons of English and six persons of Irish extraction. Sir George Radeliffe was still stated to be owner of the lands, which included portions known as Lord Howth's land and Widow Drury's land, but his house, with a demesne of sixty acres,

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(1) Gardiner's "History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate," vol. i., p. 99; Carte's "Life of Ormonde" (Lon. 1736), p. 77; Gilbert's "History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland," vol. vii., p. 123; Carte's "Collection of Original Letters and Papers" (Lon., 1739), vol. ii., p. 407; Curry's "Memorials of the Great Civil War in England," vol. ii., p. 159; Walsh's "History and Vindication of the Loyal Formulary or Irish Remonstrance," p. 609; "The Water Supply of Ancient Dublin," by Henry F. Berry in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxi., p. 557; Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, ser. i., vol. vi., p. 305; *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxxii., p. 254 (note); Tracts preserved in the Thorpe Collection in the National Library of Ireland and in the Royal Irish Academy.



was occupied by Captain William Shore. Captain Shore was connected with the County Fermanagh. His first wife was a daughter of Henry, Baron Dockwra, of Culmore; and Sir Henry Brooke, ancestor of the baronets of that name, who had married another daughter of Baron Dockwra, had also an interest in the house and demesne of Rathmines. On the death of his first wife, Captain Shore married the widow of Baron Lewis Hamilton, the brother of the first Lord Glenawley, and father of the distinguished defender of Enniskillen in the time of James II. She was a native of Sweden, of which country her first husband was a noble, and is said to have been possessed of a large fortune and to have been of very high birth. She married, in addition to Baron Hamilton and Captain Shore, two other husbands, an ancestor of the Archdalls of Fermanagh, and Montgomerys of Tyrone, and an ancestor of the Summerville family, now ennobled under the title of Athlumney. Captain Shore's death occurred about 1668, and ten years later there were legal proceedings between his representatives and Thomas Radcliffe, the only son of Sir George Radcliffe, with regard to the lands of Rathmines (1).

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the Temple family, ennobled under the title of Palmerston, came into possession of Rathmines, and to this circumstance the use of the name Palmerston in the present nomenclature of a great portion of the district is due. The rural character of the neighbourhood was still maintained; in October, 1704, Dr. William King, then Bishop of Derry, and afterwards Archbishop of Dublin, stayed there temporarily, as he had done shortly before at Rathfarnham, in order to obtain country air, and the only residence of any importance besides the mansion house was one called Boland Hall, the owner of which in 1727 put an end to his life by throwing himself into the Dodder at Milltown (2).

Under a lease made in 1746 by Henry, first Viscount Palmerston, the mansion house of Rathmines became the country seat of the Right Hon. William Yorke, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland. When the lease was made, Yorke occupied the position of

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(1) Hearth Money Roll; Census of 1659; Repertory Chancery Decees, vol. ii., pp. 320, 405; Book of Distribution in Royal Irish Academy; Book of Survey in Public Record Office; "Monca Castle and the Hamiltons," by the Earl of Belmore in *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. i., pp. 195, 256; Lodge's Peerage, vol. vi., p. 36; Burke's Extinct Peerage.

(2) Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; Archbishop King's Correspondence in Trinity College Library; *Dublin Weekly Journal*, 8th April, 1727; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788-1789, p. 608.

second justice of that court—a position to which he had been promoted three years previously direct from the English Bar through the influence of his kinsman, the great Earl of Hardwicke, then Lord Chancellor of England. In Ireland he was received with every attention by Hardwicke's friend, Lord Chancellor Jocelyn, and a year after his arrival in 1744 he married the widow of Mr. William Cope, of Loughgall, who had died shortly before of fever, a year after his marriage. Yorke thus became connected with the chief of his court, the Right Hon. Henry Singleton, who was her uncle, and with the astute Philip Tisdal, already mentioned in connection with Stillorgan, who was her brother-in-law. In 1753 Chief Justice Singleton retired in Yorke's favour, and in 1755, William, Marquis of Hartington, afterwards fourth Duke of Devonshire, soon after his arrival in Ireland as Lord Lieutenant, honoured the newly-appointed Chief Justice by dining with him at Rathmines. Yorke resigned the chiefship of the Common Pleas in 1761 on being created a baronet and appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in the room of the illustrious Anthony Malone, but only held the latter office for two years, until 1763, when he retired to London, where he died in 1776 from accidentally taking a dose of poison, and was buried in the chapel of the Charter House (1).

At the close of the eighteenth century a school was established in Chief Justice Yorke's residence, and about thirty years later it presented the appearance of a farmhouse, and was used as a boarding-house, which was frequented by persons of a consumptive tendency. At the latter period it had been superseded by the modern Rathmines Castle, which was built about 1820 by Colonel Wynne, and was subsequently occupied successively by Sir Jonas Green, sometime Recorder of Dublin, and the Rev. Thomas Kelly. It was not until Chief Justice Yorke's time that direct communication was made between what is now known as Old Rathmines and Rathgar—the latter place having until then been approached from Dublin through Harold's Cross—by the construction of Highfield Road. The construction of Rathgar Road and the modern urban districts of Rathmines and Rathgar dates only from the nineteenth century (2).

(1) Lease in Registry of Deeds Office; *Pac's Occurrences*, vol. xl., No. 39, vol. xli., No. 74, vol. lii., No. 64; *Dublin Gazette*, 2nd October, 1741, 27th October, 1742; Harris's "Life of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke," vol. ii., pp. 50, 501, 503; Burke's "Landed Gentry" under Singleton of Mell; Haydn's "Book of Dignities"; *Annual Register* for 1776, p. 189.

(2) *Dublin Journal*, No. 2699; "Plan of Rathmines School under the direction of the Reverend Charles Barry," preserved amongst Haliday Tracts (vol. 569) in Royal Irish Academy; *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. ii., p. 81.

## RANELAGH AND SANDFORD.

*(Formerly called Cullenswood.)*

THE lands on which these suburban districts stand lie between the lands of Rathmines and those of Baggotrath and Donnybrook, and once formed, like the lands of Rathmines, portion of the property of the See of Dublin, constituting a manor, subordinate to the manor of St. Sepulchre. This manor, which appears in the fourteenth century under the name of Colon, has been identified with a place called Nova Colonia, where, in the thirteenth century, the Archbishop of Dublin had a residence. In the opinion of the Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland it formed the corps of the prebend without cure of souls, in right of which the Archbishop of Dublin occupies a seat in the chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral. At Nova Colonia in 1253 Archbishop Luke signed a decree, and there in 1290 Archbishop John de Sanford, then Justiciary of Ireland, received a deputation from the merchants of Dublin. A great portion of the lands was covered with the wood, whence the name Cullenswood is derived, which on more than one occasion is said to have afforded cover to the Irish tribes when making attacks on the English inhabitants of Dublin. According to tradition, on a certain Easter Monday, a day for long afterwards known as Black Monday, the original English settlers from Bristol to the number of 500, while engaged in public sports near it, were surprised and slaughtered by a party of the Irish, and in it more than a hundred years later the chief of the O'Tooles and eighty followers concealed themselves all night before making an attack on Dublin, which resulted in their being put to flight and pursued for six leagues, with a loss of seventeen killed and many mortally wounded.

The manor of Colon did not escape the devastations of the neighbourhood, which, as mentioned in the history of Dundrum, resulted from the invasion of Bruce, and a deplorable picture is presented in 1326 of the state of the manor. The buildings, including the Archbishop's hall and chamber, with a chapel attached, which were built of stone and roofed with shingles, as well as offices, consisting of a kitchen, farmhouse, stable and granary made of timber, were part in ruin and part level with the ground, while the meadows which extended along the highway were destroyed by trespass on the part of the carriers and their pack horses; the pastures could not be stocked owing to the raids of the malefactors from the

mountains, and the wood had been so ravaged that there was no profit to be obtained even from the sale of firewood, while the ground which it had occupied was useless for pasture. The serfs, who had worked the lands for the Archbishop, fled, and the Archbishop, finally thinking it well to have some profit from the manor land, leased it at a low rent to tenants better able to defend his property, such as was in 1382, a stout English farmer called Richard Chamberlain, who held it in conjunction with the Archbishop's lands near Dundrum (1).

About the middle of the sixteenth century portion of the lands of St. Sepulchre were leased by the Archbishop of Dublin to Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, then described as of Baginbally, and together with them the office of keeper of the wood of Cullen upon the surrender of John de Bathe, by whom it was then held, was granted to him. At the beginning of the seventeenth century the wood of Cullen was held by Sir William Ussher, of Donnybrook, and at the time of the rebellion of 1641 the lands of Cullenswood were occupied by a yeoman called Thomas Ward. In depositions made by Ward he recounts how in April, 1642, his house and offices at Cullenswood were totally destroyed by fire, how the rebels robbed him of sixteen cows, a bull, and eight horses; how at the time Mr. Parnell, as related under Rathmines, was taken prisoner, he was taken also, but was let go on surrendering his arms; and how subsequently at Powerscourt he saw a man wearing his sword (2).

The ground now occupied by the Carmelite Convent of St. Joseph, close to the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway, was in the eighteenth century the site of a house called Willbrook. This house was for a number of years the residence of the Right Rev. William Barnard, successively Bishop of Raphoe and Derry, who, as a monument in Westminster Abbey records, after ruling the latter diocese for twenty years with great approbation, died in 1768 in London, where he had gone for the benefit of his health. After the death of the Bishop, Willbrook was taken by an organ builder from London with the object of its conversion into a place of public amusement, and soon the episcopal residence became a grand house of entertainment, with a theatre and gardens laid out with

(1) "Notes on the Manor of St. Sepulchre in the Fourteenth Century," by James Mills in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xix., pp. 31, 119; 20th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland, App., p. 59; Sweetman's Calendar, 1285-92, p. 276, 1293-1301, p. 117; D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 779, "Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey," vol. ii., p. 351.

(2) Patent Edward VI., No. 519; Carte Papers, vol. lxi., p. 517; Depositions of 1641 (Thomas Ward of Cullenswood).



alcoves and bowers for tea drinkers. It was all modelled on Ranelagh Gardens in London, and thus obtained the name of that fashionable resort. A fine band was constantly in attendance, the favourite vocalists of the day appeared in the theatre, and some of the earliest aeronauts made their ascents from the gardens. Not far off there was then a tavern with the curious sign of "The Bleeding Horse," and the neighbourhood was, on at least one occasion, the scene of a duel.

The gardens disappeared after a comparatively short existence, but left their name impressed on part of the lands of Cullenswood, and the use of the name Sandford, derived from the foundation of Sandford Church by Lord Mountsandford, in connection with another part of the lands, has caused the name Cullenswood to become almost obsolete (1).

## MILLTOWN.

THE village of Milltown, which is situated close to the river Dodder, on the road from Dundrum to Dublin, still exhibits traces of antiquity in an old bridge, now disused except for foot traffic, and in some large houses, which have seen more prosperous days. From a very early period it has been the scene of industrial enterprise, and until very recent years it was the site of water-mills, whose place is now taken by a steam laundry and dye works. So early as the fourteenth century the existence of a mill is mentioned in connection with the lands, then known as Milton, which were included within the manor of St. Sepulchre, joining on the north those of Rathmines and Cullenswood, and were held under the Archbishop by a family called Brigg, Hugo Brigg in 1326 and Henry Brigg in 1382 being the tenants (2).

The neighbourhood has always been celebrated for the excellence of the stone found in it, and during the sixteenth century a glimpse is afforded us of mediæval quarrying operations carried on at Milltown to provide stone for the repair of Christ Church Cathedral.

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(1) Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; Cotton's "*Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae*"; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lxx., No. 6726; O'Keeffe's "*Recollections of his Life*," vol. i., p. 291; *Dublin Gazette*, No. 2727; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1787-1788, pp. 181, 183.

(2) "*Notices of the Manor of St. Sepulchre in the Fourteenth Century*," by James Mills, vol. xix., pp. 31, 119.

These operations were conducted under the direction of a famous ecclesiastical architect, Sir Peter Lewys, the builder of the bridge of Athlone, who was precentor as well as restorer of the Cathedral. In an interesting memoir of Lewys, the present Assistant Keeper of the Public Records of Ireland, has explained that the stone was cut out of the bed of the river by means of iron tools kept pointed by a smith who was always in attendance, and, as the accompanying illustration shows, distinct traces of these operations are still to be seen near the foundation of the old bridge. In order to allow the



The Old Bridge of Milltown.

*From a Photograph by Mr. Leonard R. Strangways.*

stonecutters to cut the rock, the river had to be diverted from its course, and, needless to say, in spite of dams and bowls for baling out the water, the work was carried on with extreme difficulty. One day a bank of earth fell on a mason, whose life was only saved "with much ado," and on another occasion, owing to autumn rains, the Dodder rose to such a height that it carried away all protection for the craftsmen <sup>(1)</sup>.

At the time of the Rebellion of 1641, when the lands of Milltown belonged to the Loftuses of Rathfarnham, a miller, John

<sup>(1)</sup> "Sir Peter Lewys," by Henry F. Berry in *Transactions Quatuor Coronati Lodge*, vol. xv., p. 4.

Bacon by name, was the principal resident at Milltown, and in depositions made by him he recounts the loss of sundry horses of English breed used by him in his trade, as well as of cows, and tells how after he had taken refuge in Dublin his house was completely demolished. In order to keep the rebels in check a troop of horse under the command of one Hugh Booth, was stationed afterwards at Milltown, but while patrolling the country in June, 1642, Booth was surprised near Merrion by a party of the Irish Army under the command of Captain Bernard Talbot, and after twelve of his men had run away and two had been killed, he was taken prisoner, with the other three, and carried off to Arklow, where he was kept a close prisoner in daily fear of death for twenty-two weeks. Under the Commonwealth, when the population of Milltown was returned as fourteen inhabitants of English birth and five of Irish, Milltown continued in possession of Sir Adam Loftus, of Rathfarnham (1).

During the eighteenth century Milltown, which became then the property of the Leeson family, ennobled under the title of Earl of Milltown, was the seat of various manufactures. Amongst the mills mentioned as existing there at different times were two corn mills, a brass mill, an iron mill, a paper mill, and a mill for grinding dry woods. One of the best quarries for limestone in the County Dublin was near Milltown Bridge, where there is said to have been a rath; and the manufacture of garden pots was also carried on by "the ingenious Mr. Heavisid." Until the latter part of the century, when Classon's Bridge, near Old Rathmines, was built by Mr. John Classon, the owner of the mill for grinding dry woods, the only means of crossing the Dodder was by means of the old bridge, which was too narrow for vehicle traffic, and by a ford, where the present bridge of Milltown is built. This ford was the cause of loss of life, as persons on horseback were reluctant to make the short detour necessary to cross by the old bridge, and were sometimes carried away by the rapid waters of the Dodder when in flood. Thus in 1756 a countryman and boy going on horseback to Powerscourt, though warned not to make the attempt to cross the ford, persisted in doing so, and were carried away and drowned, and in 1782 Mr. Clarke, the steward of the Home of Industry, met his death in the same way, the occurrence being remarkable, as his daughter, and only child, had been drowned in the Dodder a year before. The ascent from the ford was also

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(1) Depositions of 1641 (John Bacon of Milltown and Hugh Booth of the City of Dublin); Census of 1659; Book of Survey in Public Record Office.

dangerous and steep, and in 1787 a child on the roof of a mourning coach accompanying a funeral to Dundrum was thrown off there and killed on the spot (1).

Milltown is stated in that century to have been a large and pleasant village, much frequented by the citizens of Dublin, and a great thoroughfare for pleasure parties going to Powerscourt. Thither from time to time the populace was attracted by advertisements of sports; in June, 1728, a race for grass fed horses, not exceeding £6 in value, from John Burr's, in Milltown, to the Cock in St. Kevin's Port, with a saddle as first prize and a bridle as second, is announced; and in July, 1758, races for horses and also for girls, with a prize of a cap and ribbons, for which entries were to be made at the Phoenix at Milltown, were to take place. But, doubtless, even greater crowds assembled at Milltown in November, 1753, to see the punishment of William Kallendar, who, for a rescue, was so severely whipped from Milltown to Dundrum that he died a few days later in Newgate Prison, leaving, as the newspaper records, a wife and five small children to mourn his loss. Amongst the inhabitants we find Mr. Hugh Johnston, who, in 1727, was made a magistrate for the metropolitan county; Mr. John Randall, the owner of the paper mill, "a man of very good character," who in 1751 was thrown from his horse and killed; Mr. Dogherty, the owner of the iron mill, who in 1758 was found dead in his bed; Mr. Robert Tomlinson, whose house in 1779 was attacked and plundered in the middle of the day by a set of desperate villains; the Viscount St. Lawrence, who in 1783 was residing near Milltown; and the Ladies Eleanor and Isabella King, daughters of the first Earl of Kingston, who were visited in 1797 in a house near Milltown left them by a Mrs. Walcot, by the diarist already mentioned in connection with Seapoint, who drove out from Dublin in a green chaise to see them (2).

(1) Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; Exchequer Bill; *Dublin Journal*, No. 6712; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788-1789, p. 969; Rutt's "Natural History of the County Dublin," vol. i., p. 93; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1787-1788, pp. 359, 461; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. liii., No. 3; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1782, p. 551.

(2) Lewis's Dublin Guide, p. 186; *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. iii., p. 372; *Irish Penny Journal*, vol. i., p. 281; Warrants for Magistrates in Public Record Office; *Dublin Weekly Journal*, 15th June, 1728; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. i., No. 92, vol. ii., No. 86, vol. iv., No. 58, vol. lvi., No. 98; Exshaw's Magazine for 1779, p. 487; *Dublin Journal*, No. 6633; MS. Diary of Alexander Hamilton, K.C., LL.D.



## Parish of Rathfarnham.

(*i.e., Rath-Feurannain or Farnan's Rath.*)

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The Parish of Rathfarnham in the seventeenth century appears as containing the Townlands of Rathfarnham, Terenure, Kimmage, Rathgar, Little Newtown, Butterfield, Scholarstown, and St. John's Leas.

It now contains the Townlands of Ballyroan (*i.e., Baile Ruadhain, or Rowan's Townland*), Butterfield, Kimmage, Newtown Little, Old Orchard, Rathfarnham, Rathgar (*i.e., Rath-gearr, or Short Rath*), Scholarstown, Terenure (*i.e., Tir-an-inbhair, or the Land of the Yew*), Whitehall, and Willbrook.

The objects of archaeological interest in the Parish are the Castle of Rathfarnham and a fragment of the Old Church.

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### RATHFARNHAM AND ITS CASTLE.

THE Castle of Rathfarnham, formerly the seat of the Right Hon. Francis Blackburne, sometime Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and still in the occupation of his descendants, is one of the few fine residences of any antiquity in the metropolitan county. It was originally a fortified and embattled structure built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by that great legal ecclesiastic, Archbishop Loftus, but owing to alterations in the eighteenth century carried out in a Grecian style of architecture, it now presents the appearance of a modern house.

This castle is not the first dwelling which has occupied its site. Soon after the Anglo-Norman Conquest the lands of Rathfarnham, then joining on the north those within the manor of St. Sepulchre and on the east those within the parish of Taney, had been given to a family called le Bret, and during their ownership, which lasted for many generations, a manorial residence stood upon their property. They were people of importance amongst the early settlers, and, in addition to Rathfarnham, became possessed of estates in Tipperary and Cork. The first of the family connected with Rathfarnham was Milo le Bret, to whom in 1199 a grant of the lands was made. His name appears amongst the magnates of Ireland, and he was personally known to King John, at whose court in England he was, on at least one occasion, a visitor.



The Entrance to Rathfarnham Castle.  
From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.

Towards the close of the thirteenth century, after the lands had been held by Walter le Bret, who in 1269 made a perpetual assignment of a portion of them now known as Kimmage, Geoffrey le Bret appears as the proprietor of the manor of Rathfarnham, for which he rendered military service valued at 68s. to the Crown. He saw much service as a soldier. During a period of twenty years he was one of those responsible for the protection of the marches of Dublin, and large sums were from time to time paid to him for expenses incurred in resisting the enemies of the Crown at Saggard, Newcastle, and other places. In these operations he gained so high a reputation for bravery that it reached the English Court. In 1297 he was included by Edward I. amongst the liegemen in Ireland whom that monarch summoned to assist him in his war against France,—promising as an incentive to prompt compliance that he would keep them close to his side. Again in 1302 le Bret was honoured with a similar command to join in the war against Scotland.

The lands of Rathfarnham were occupied, under their owners, by the great Danish clan of Harold, who, with the Walshes and the Archbalds, then held so much of the lands bordering on the territory of the hillsmen. Their occupation was sometimes only rendered possible by illegal compacts with their neighbours, and in 1305 Richard, son of Reginald Harold, paid a fine because Rathfarnham had afforded shelter to some of the foes of the Crown. The owners of Rathfarnham were then resident in Cork. Milo, son of Geoffrey le Bret, who in 1320 granted to his legal adviser, John Graunteste, a yearly rent charge of 20s. and a robe of proportionate value out of the lands of Rathfarnham, was Sheriff of Cork, and his grandson, John le Bret, filled the same position. On account of an apprehended invasion of the O'Byrnes, the latter was ordered in 1356 to proceed with his followers fully armed in martial array to his manor of Rathfarnham, and in 1375 he was given license to remove corn from his house at Rathfarnham for his own use.

The existence towards the close of the fourteenth century of a bridge across the Dodder at Rathfarnham is indicated by a bequest in the will, executed in 1381, of a certain Joan Douce, of St. Audoen's Parish, in Dublin, of one mark towards its construction. At the beginning of the fifteenth century the Harolds still appear as tenants, and the lands were in the hands of the Crown owing to the death of John, son of Geoffrey le Bret. In 1415 they were committed to the custody of James Fitzwilliam, the first owner

of Merrión of his name. Subsequently, owing to the death of one John Galvey, two parts of the lands were committed in 1423 to Thomas Hall, and in 1424 to James Cornwallsh, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who met his death in the Castle of Baggotrath (1).

At the time they came into the possession of Archbishop Loftus the lands of Rathfarnham, which had passed from the Brets to the Eustace family, were, like Monkstown, in the hands of the Crown, owing to the rebellion of James Eustace, third Viscount Baltinglass, and before obtaining the custody of the Castle of Monkstown, Sir Henry Wallop, the Earl of Portsmouth's ancestor,



**Rathfarnham Castle.**

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

had applied for a lease of them. A few months later, in the autumn of 1582, Archbishop Loftus was soliciting a lease of some of the lands forfeited during the Desmond Rebellion, and though for a time his petition was withdrawn, this application was probably

(1) "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," by James Mills, *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv., p. 165; Sweetman's Calendar: Plea and Memoranda Rolls; Patent Rolls, pp. 61, 95, 167, 168, 170, 171, 227, 231; Holiday Deeds preserved in Royal Irish Academy.



the origin of the grant of Rathfarnham to him. Owing to the incursions of the hillsmen it was then described as a waste village, and the original castle, if it remained at all, can have been only a ruin. But within two years of his acquiring the property Archbishop Loftus had built the castle which has come down to the present day—an edifice of such magnificence in the opinion of a contemporary writer as would for all time be a monument to the greatness and grandeur of its builder. According to the patent of a peerage conferred on one of his descendants the object of its erection was to protect the English subjects of the Crown, but as



**Archbishop Loftus.**

*From an Engraving in the possession of the Rev. William Reynell.*

the Archbishop, owing to the disturbed state of the neighbourhood, had shortly before been obliged to vacate his episcopal seat at Tallagh, it is probable that it was part of his design to provide a country residence for himself.

Archbishop Loftus, who was a native of Yorkshire, had come to Ireland in the train of the Earl of Sussex, who was appointed Lord Lieutenant soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, and had subsequently become Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Archbishop of Armagh. That diocese was then in a distracted state, and in 1567 he was translated to Dublin—in those days the most important and valuable of the Irish archbishoprics. For more than thirty-seven years he held the latter See, and with it for

twenty-four years the office of Lord Chancellor, to which he was appointed after having been on several occasions the temporary custodian of the Great Seal. Loftus stands out amongst his fellows as a man of singular ability, with a reputation as an eloquent preacher, and in his successful opposition to the diversion of the revenues of St. Patrick's Cathedral to the establishment of a university, as well as in the assistance which he gave towards the foundation of Trinity College, of which he was the first provost, he exhibited both high principle and independence of character. In his time such offices as he held gave power and influence beyond anything possible in the present day. These advantages he used, undoubtedly, for his own advancement and that of his family, although, probably not to a greater degree than others in a similar position would have done.

Loftus took up his residence at Rathfarnham in the year 1585, when he had incurred much enmity by his opposition to the diversion of the endowment of St. Patrick's Cathedral for educational purposes, and his establishment there, and the nominal rent of 30s., for which he was granted the fee farm of the lands, gave rise to many malicious allegations. In that year he found it necessary to write to Lord Burghley to explain how he had means to build a house, and some years later it was said that, while causes were pending before him, "angels, beasts of the field, and birds of the air did fly and run to Rathfarnham." As has been mentioned, the castle was considered a stately residence, and an occasional reference shows that its contents were in keeping with it. Conches such as were made for the Archbishop in Ireland were thought worthy of a place in the home of Lord Burghley's illustrious son, the first Earl of Salisbury, as was also a deer's head, "the rare greatness" of which had caused the Archbishop to have it hung in the hall of "his poor house," and which he wishes might be the most remarkable curiosity in Christendom in order that his love to his friend might be the more evident. In every room basins and ewers of pure silver were to be seen, in some great standing white bowls and others of a smaller size attracted the eye, and after the death of Queen Elizabeth the buffet was adorned with three handsome cups made out of her Irish Great Seal.

Archbishop Loftus had an enormous family of twenty children. Only four of his sons came, however, to man's estate, and of these but two survived him. All four served in the army, and it was in the wars in Ireland towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign that the two who died before their father met their deaths.

Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam knighted the eldest, and the unfortunate Earl of Essex, on his hurried departure from Ireland, after appointing the Archbishop to act in his absence as a Lord Justice, stayed a moment on the sands before taking ship to confer a similar honour on two of the younger. Seven of the Archbishop's daughters were married—some of them more than once—finding husbands in the families of, amongst others, Colley, Blaney, Berkeley, Colclough, Moore, Warren, and Ussher. In these alliances and in others, which, it was said, were contemplated, the Archbishop's enemies saw grounds for accusations against him of an attempt to secure an indispensable position in the government of Ireland (1).

The Archbishop's eldest son, Sir Dudley Loftus, whose marriage to a daughter of Sir Nicholas Bagenal had also afforded occasion for suspicious whispering on the part of his father's enemies, succeeded to Rathfarnham in 1605 on his father's death. In early life he is said to have been an honest young gentleman, "both loved and well disposed," and during the military operations in Ulster, as captain of a troop of horse, he displayed conspicuous valour. It was for the part which he took in an engagement near Beleek, when after his horse had been killed under him he slew with his own hand twelve of the enemy, that he was knighted by Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam, and subsequently he was employed in several expeditions in which he spared himself neither toil nor hardship. He does not appear to have been prominent in public affairs after his father's death, and resided principally in the suppressed preceptory of Kileloggan, in the County of Wexford, which had been granted to him, and where in 1616, at the age of fifty-five, he died (2).

Rathfarnham Castle was in Sir Dudley Loftus's time occupied temporarily by the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Ridgeway, then Treasurer for Ireland, and afterwards created Earl of Londonderry, who in September 1611 dates a letter on affairs of State to the Earl of Salisbury from Rathfarnham, but on Sir Dudley's death, as his

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(1) Calendar of Carew State Papers, 1575-1588, p. 370; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxxiv., p. 73; Calendar of Irish State Papers; Manuscripts of the Marquis of Salisbury, pt. vii., p. 31, published by the Historical Manuscripts Commission; "The Description of Ireland in 1598," edited by Rev. Edmund Hogan, pp. 37, 43; Papers relating to Archbishop Loftus from the Library of Dr. Reeves in Trinity College Library; Borlase's "Reduction of Ireland," pp. 148, 180; Will of Archbishop Loftus; Lodge's Peerage, vol. vii., p. 249; Metcalfe's "Book of Knights," pp. 208, 210.

(2) Calendar of Irish State Papers; Funeral Entry.

Wexford property went to a younger son, the Castle became the constant residence of Sir Adam Loftus, who succeeded Sir Dudley there as his eldest son. Although a time-serving politician, Sir Adam Loftus was one of the most able of the Archbishop's descendants, and has the proud distinction of being the father of Dr. Dudley Loftus, the famous Oriental scholar. He enjoyed the friendship of the leading people in Ireland in his day. Sir Arthur Chichester, the planter of Ulster, conferred the honour of knighthood on him in 1610, when he was barely of age, and appointed him Constable of Maryborough Castle. The great Earl of Cork, the most striking personality of that time, gave the hand of one of his daughters in marriage to his eldest son. The great Earl's cousins, Sir William Parsons, the well-known governor of Ireland at the time of the Rebellion, and Sir Laurence Parsons, ancestor of the present Earl of Rosse, who was a Baron of the Exchequer, and is said to have died in 1628 at Rathfarnham, both held Loftus in esteem, and became related to him by the marriage of their eldest sons to two of his daughters. And the mighty Earl of Strafford conceived a strong affection for him, regarding him as a man of integrity and capacity.

The career of Loftus for many years was bound up with that of the Earl of Cork, and in the great Earl's quaint business diary and correspondence he is frequently mentioned. There the tale is told of the unromantic marriage of his son to the Earl's daughter. The first reference to Sir Adam is an account of a conversation between Sir Adam and Sir Laurence Parsons, who acted as the great Earl's confidential legal adviser, regarding a widowed daughter of the Earl whom Sir Adam desired to receive at Rathfarnham. Then a year later the betrothal of Sir Adam's eldest son, Arthur Loftus, to the Earl's daughter, Dorothy, born six years before in Sir Walter Raleigh's house at Youghal, was accomplished, and the first instalment of her marriage portion of £3,000 was paid to her future father-in-law. Soon afterwards young Loftus went to reside at Lismore, and the little girl with her French attendant came to Rathfarnham. Then the youth went in the Earl's train to England, where he fell sick of the smallpox, and was provided with money (which the Earl was careful to have refunded), and with the use of the Earl's medicine chest, and became the constant companion of the Earl's son, whom he accompanied to Oxford. And finally on Shrove Monday, 1632, the girl bride, then only fourteen years of age, was married, as the Earl records, by the good Primate Ussher in Rathfarnham Castle to the husband of her parent's choice.



A few months after this marriage had been arranged Sir Adam Loftus became, jointly with a member of the Parsons' family, Surveyor-General of Ireland and an official of the Court of Wards. He subsequently acted as a keeper of the Great Seal during the absence of his cousin, Viscount Ely, then Chancery of Ireland, and was made a member of the Privy Council. While the Earl of Cork was a Lord Justice, before the arrival of the Earl of Strafford, Sir Adam Loftus was at his right hand. We find him riding with



The Hall of Rathfarnham Castle.

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

the Earl and Sir William Parsons on more than one occasion to give orders for the rebuilding of Maynooth Castle, and being lent by the Earl one of his two precious copies of Stafford's "Pacata Hibernia." But no sooner had the Earl of Strafford landed than Sir Adam began to worship the rising sun. He obtained a seat as member for the borough of Gorey in the Parliaments held under Strafford; and Charles I., in response to a request from Strafford

that he would give Sir Adam "a scratch of the pen," sent him a gracious message of thanks for the help which he had rendered to his Viceroy in the Privy Council. In spite of his devotion to Strafford, Sir Adam managed to retain the Earl of Cork's goodwill. With the great Earl's approval he was appointed Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, and the Earl relates that, when going to take the oaths of office, Sir Adam, who was accompanied by all the judges, many of the Privy Council, and very many of the Lord Deputy's gentlemen mounted on his great horses, rode between him as Lord Treasurer and Strafford's son. When the dispute between Strafford and the Earl arose, Sir Adam was instant in urging the Earl to submit himself to Strafford's judgment, and probably from that time they drifted more and more apart, until at last the Earl recorded that Sir Adam had used him uncivilly, and spoke to him in a harsh and displeasing manner.

Sir Adam Loftus took an active part in the proceedings instituted by Strafford against his cousin, the Lord Chancellor, and from letters written to him by Strafford from the Tower of London he appears to have been one of the few in Ireland on whom Strafford thought he could rely. But Strafford's execution was not long a thing of the past when Sir Adam became deep in the counsels of the Parliament. In this line he was followed, doubtless to the unspeakable regret of the Earl of Cork, by his eldest son. Soon after Strafford's arrival in 1634 Arthur Loftus had received from him knighthood, and in the same year—a year in which the Earl of Cork records his thanks to God for the birth of her first child to his daughter, Lady Dorothy Loftus, at Rathfarnham—he was returned to Parliament as member for the borough of Enniscorthy. Subsequently Sir Arthur had a very unpleasant passage with his father-in-law touching a domestic squabble, in which he showed himself both "heady and untractable," to the Earl's great discontent and is not again mentioned in the Earl's correspondence or diary <sup>(1)</sup>.

On the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1641 every precaution was taken to prevent Rathfarnham Castle falling into the hands of the rebels. All the Loftus family took up arms. Sir Adam Loftus and Sir Arthur Loftus commanded each a troop of horse, and, as they were engaged elsewhere, the care of the Castle was

<sup>(1)</sup> Calendar of Irish State Papers; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xlviii., p. 279; Metcalfe's "Book of Knights," pp. 212, 214; Carte Papers, vol. lxii., f. 29; "Lismore Papers"; Return of Members of Parliament; "Strafford's Letters" edited by William Knowler, vol. i., pp. 98, 99, 115, vol. ii., pp. 260, 414, 415.

committed to Sir Adam's second son, the learned Dudley Loftus, then just returned from his studies at Oxford. As its custodian, Dudley Loftus is said to have done good service in defending Dublin from the rebels, who swarmed down from the mountainous country. Amongst those who resorted to the Castle during that winter of disorder was an extraordinary genius called John Ogilby, who is said to have been nearly killed there by an explosion of gunpowder. Ogilby, who had been brought to Ireland by Strafford, as tutor to his children, and was then Master of the Revels, and owner of a theatre in Dublin, had gained some military training as a member of Strafford's guard of honour, but possibly the literary tastes which he displayed afterwards in the publication of various books, including the first guide to the roads of England—a noble folio volume—may have had something to do with his association with the scholarly custodian of Rathfarnham Castle.

The state of siege in which the inhabitants of the Castle lived for several years may be gathered from the outrages committed in the immediate neighbourhood. In the Easter week following the outbreak of the Rebellion, one Henry Jones, the tenant of Scholars-town, was murdered, his body being found pierced with fourteen wounds. Soon afterwards some of the rebels came to the house of Henry Butterfield, from whom, doubtless, the modern townland of Butterfield derives its name, and after killing one of his servants and robbing him of his cattle, carried off Butterfield to Powerscourt, and there hanged him on a gallows. After the Cessation, when the great sweep of cattle was made at Rathmines, Thomas Wood, a tailor, and Ralph Morris, a wheelwright, both of Rathfarnham, were also carried off to Powerscourt, but made good their escape the next day, not, however, before ropes had been placed round their necks and threats to hang them had been uttered. The owner of a cloth mill at Rathfarnham, John Higginson by name, also suffered severely. He had contracted for the supply of transport for the artillery, and from time to time seventy-seven of the horses employed in that service were carried off from him at Rathfarnham. During the Cessation, when he was building a mill at Rathfarnham, a notorious rebel, whom he had seen riding one of the horses which had been taken from him, threatened him, and subsequently his cloth mill was broken into. The caretaker and his family were assailed with shots and great stones, and the caretaker only saved his life by escaping through the sluice of the mill and taking refuge in the Castle. Besides the loss of cloth to the value of £60, Higginson's business was destroyed, as he tells us, by his customers being frightened away, and he was obliged to obtain

soldiers to guard his property at a cost of three shillings weekly. About the same time the house of one Edward Thorpe, at Rathfarnham Bridge, was robbed, and his servant maid lost her eyesight through shots fired by the burglars, and forty cows and sixteen horses belonging to Sir Adam Loftus were taken from the lands of Newtown by a party of the Confederate troops, who were called upon by the Marquis of Ormonde to make reparation for this violation of the Treaty of Cessation (1).

During the two years succeeding the outbreak of the Rebellion Sir Adam Loftus constantly attended the meetings of the Privy Council, and was one of the chief supporters of Sir William Parsons and his brother Lords Justices; and Sir Arthur Loftus, who had sent his family to England, continued to act as an officer in the King's Irish Army, serving as Lieutenant-Colonel of Sir Charles Coote's regiment and as Governor of Naas. When the Treaty of Cessation with the Irish was proposed both Sir Adam Loftus and his son joined in the opposition to it, and on account of their sympathy with the Parliament were imprisoned in Dublin Castle. Sir Adam Loftus underwent a prolonged confinement, owing to a public attack which he made on Lord Brabazon, the eldest son of the first Earl of Meath, for his loyalty to the King, but Sir Arthur Loftus was only detained for twenty-five weeks. On reaching England they were received with every mark of favour by the Parliament. Sir Adam Loftus, besides being given a command in its army, was appointed a Counsellor of State and Treasurer for War in Ireland, and Sir Arthur Loftus was given permission to beat his drums in London for men to join in an expedition to relieve Duncannon Fort, and afterwards served with Lord Broghill in Munster. But evil times came then for the house of Loftus, and they were reduced to a state of extreme poverty. Sir Adam Loftus, whom Colonel Michael Jones earnestly desired, "as honest men were scarce," to have with him in Dublin, was a prisoner for debt in London, and subsequently, while receiving a pension of 10s. a week from the State, was obliged to ask for assistance to take his family to Dublin. Sir Adam Loftus, who was in an equally impecunious state, on his accounts as Treasurer of War failing to give satisfaction, was for a time imprisoned, and was placed on a pension of £4 a week (2).

(1) Lodge's *Peerage*, vol. vii., p. 258; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxxiv., p. 79; vol. xlii., p. 14; Depositions of 1641 (John Higginson, Thomas Wood, and Ralph Morris of Rathfarnham); Carte Papers, vol. xv., f. 687.

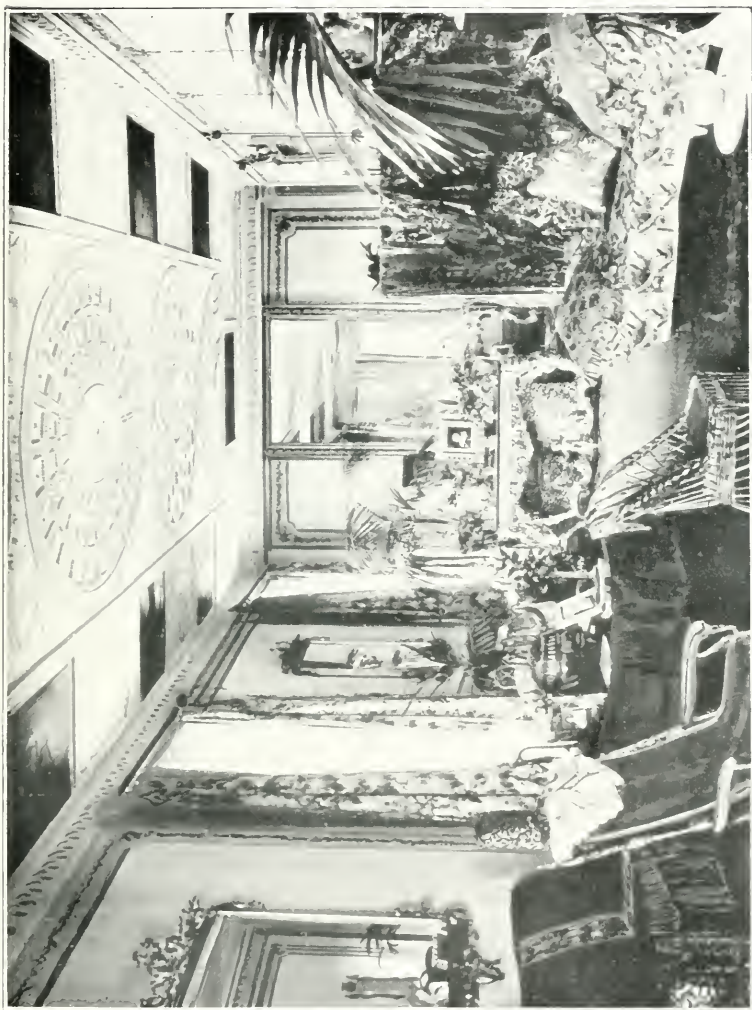
(2) Calendar of Irish State Papers and of Domestic State Papers; Carte Papers, vol. xi., pp. 161, 556; vol. lxxviii., p. 503; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. vii., App., pp. 32, 37, Rept. viii., p. 597.



Meantime Rathfarnham Castle appears to have been derelict, except so far as it may have been occupied by the military. When in the summer of 1647 the Marquis of Ormonde surrendered Dublin to the Parliament it was suggested by Lord Digby that leave for him to remain in Ireland, with Rathfarnham as a residence, should be one of the conditions of surrender. Two years later, in July, 1649, as has been mentioned under Rathmines, the Castle was garrisoned by the Parliament, and a few days before the disastrous Battle of Rathmines it was stormed and taken by the Royalist troops. All in it were made prisoners, and Ormonde, in a letter to Charles II., takes credit for the fact that although 500 of his men obtained entrance into the Castle before an officer had done so, not a single member of the garrison was killed—a great contrast, he remarks, to the conduct of the soldiers of the Parliament on similar occasions. During the Commonwealth, Dr. Dudley Loftus, who held various offices of State, and was returned to the Parliament of 1659 as representative of the grouped Counties of Wicklow and Kildare, appears to have been recognised as the owner of the Castle. A considerable village then existed round it. A census of that period gives the number of the inhabitants of Rathfarnham as seventy persons, occupying twenty-two houses. Amongst these were three gentlemen, Mr. Darby Burgoyne, Mr. James Bishop, and Mr. William Graham, and the cottiers included a smith, a carman, and a cow herd, besides a gardener and a cooper, who were in Dr. Dudley Loftus's employment. In addition, seventy-seven inhabitants, occupying twenty houses, are returned as residing in Butterfield. These included Mr. Robert Dixon, who had thirteen servants in his employment, a large farmer called Henry Walsh, two carmen, a brogue-maker, and a weaver. A strong wooden bridge across the river Dodder made communication with Dublin easy under ordinary circumstances, but on more than one occasion it was carried away by the violence of the mountain torrents. The observant Dr. Gerald Boate, in "Ireland's Natural History," dwells on the tendency of the Dodder to rise suddenly, and says that although the bridge at Rathfarnham was so high that a man on horseback could ride under it, and the water was usually so shallow that a child could wade through it, the river rose frequently to such a height that it touched and even flowed over the bridge (<sup>1</sup>).

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(<sup>1</sup>) Carte Papers, vol. xxi., p. 330; Survey of Baronies of Upper Cross and Newcastle, in Public Record Office; Thom's "Tracts relating to Ireland," vol. i., p. 55.



The Drawing Room of Rathfarnham Castle.  
 From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.

At the time of the Restoration, Sir Adam Loftus had resumed possession of the Castle, which was then rated as containing eighteen hearths. His eldest son, Sir Arthur Loftus, had died shortly before, but Sir Arthur's sons, Adam and Robert, are mentioned as resident with their grandfather. Amongst the other inhabitants about that time were Mr. Matthew Pennox, Mr. George Hopkins, Mr. William Denison, Mr. George Casborough, Mr. William Dixon, of the Old Orchard; Mr. Anthony Poulter, of Butterfield; Mr. David Gibson, of Scholarstown; Mr. Daniel Reading, of Stoughton's Farm; Mr. Laurence Hudson, of Newtown Little; and Mr. Richard Greene, of the White House. After Sir Adam Loftus's death his daughter-in-law, Lady Dorothy Loftus, the widow of Sir Arthur Loftus, is returned as the occupier of the Castle, and obtained in 1665, from the Master of the Ordnance six well-fixed firelock muskets for its protection. She died in 1668, having married, as her second husband, a member of the Talbot family, and was succeeded by her eldest son <sup>(1)</sup>.

Adam Loftus, who appears as owner of Rathfarnham Castle after his mother's death, and who was raised to the peerage as Baron Loftus of Rathfarnham and Viscount Lisburne, was one of the gallants of the gay court of Charles II. Soon after the Restoration, when he was returned to the Irish Parliament as member for the borough of Lismore through the influence of his uncle, the second Earl of Cork, he figures as the survivor in a duel with one John Bromley, and only escaped from the sentence of the King's Bench that he should be burned in the hand by the intervention of the King. Some years later he appears as owner of an Irish wolf-hound which he brought to fight with an English mastiff before the Merry Monarch—an unfortunate passage, writes Viscount Conway to Sir George Rawdon, whom he beseeches for the credit of their country to find a better dog, as when the wolf-hound had almost overcome the mastiff he ran away, and the King laid a wager that there was not a dog of his breed that would not do the same. Abroad at Saumur we find him dancing attendance on a great lady of his day, and forming one of a colony of English people who brought out from England for their amusement such luxuries as a coach and six, a pack of hounds, and half a dozen riding horses. He appeared in Ireland in 1672 with a commission as Captain in the Army, seeking to raise 500 volunteers for the Duke of Monmouth's regiment, and two years later, when he was appointed Ranger of the Phoenix Park, he dated a letter (in which he mentions a severe family affliction) from Rathfarnham.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Hearth Money Roll; Census of 1659; Will of Sir Arthur Loftus: Ormonde Papers, vol. i., p. 323, published by Historical Manuscripts Commission.

About this time there died a maiden daughter of Sir Adam Loftus, Grizzel by name, from whom portion of the Rathfarnham demesne derives its appellation of Grizzel's Paddock. She mentions in her will numerous relatives to whom she bequeaths various remembrances, including her gold bodkin, her caudle cup and chafing dish, her father's picture, her porcelain and china, and her essence box with her arms; but, as a person of puritan sympathies, she evidently viewed with disfavour her nephew's mode of life, and refers to him with great reserve as Adam Loftus, Esq., of Rathfarnham. Her minister, Mr. Isaac Smith, is far more favoured, and, in addition to being bequeathed two silver powder boxes, is given a reversionary interest in the lease of the farm of Woodtown, which she had been granted by her father. It was to James II. that Adam Loftus owed his creation, in 1686, as a peer, but at the Revolution he espoused the cause of William III. In the service of that monarch he lost his life. He joined King William's Irish Army as Colonel of a regiment of foot, and in that capacity displayed heroic conduct at the taking of Carrickfergus Fort, the Battle of Aughrim, and the Siege of Limerick. His bravery there was the cause of his death. He had directed his tent to be pitched as near the walls of the city as possible in the trenches, and when coming out of it one day in the month of September, 1691, he was killed by a cannon ball—a messenger of death which was afterwards carefully gilded and hung over the tomb of his family in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where he was interred <sup>(1)</sup>.

By his wife Lucia, daughter of George, sixth Lord Chandos, Viscount Lisburne had an only surviving child, a daughter, who bore her mother's name, and by this daughter's marriage a year after her father's death, to Thomas, Marquis of Wharton, Rathfarnham Castle became the property of the Wharton family. Of the Marquis of Wharton, the greatest rake and one of the busiest politicians of his day, and of his wife, who, under an affectation of prudery, is said to have been equally unscrupulous, Rathfarnham Castle, which provided him, on an elevation in the peerage, with the title of Earl of Rathfarnham, saw little. He filled for a time the office of Lord Lieutenant, but four months' residence in Ireland

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(1) Return of Members of Parliament: Calendar of Carte Papers under dates April 25, and Oct. 27, 1663; Jan. 24, 1666, and March 17, 1674; "The Rawdon Papers," edited by Rev. Edward Berwick, p. 231; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. vi., App., pt. i., p. 368; Rept. vii., App., pt. ii., p. 789; Rept. x., App., pt. v., p. 161; Montagu Manuscripts, p. 191; Will of Grizzel Loftus; Lodge's Peerage, vol. vii., p. 263; Calendar Domestic State Papers.



was all he thought the duties of his office required. His eldest son, Philip, who was created Duke of Wharton, and who succeeded his father in 1716, when only seventeen years of age, was even more profligate, and within eight years of his coming into possession of the property was obliged to sell a great portion of his estates, including his estate at Rathfarnham. The latter comprised, beside the castle and demesne, a great extent of lands in the parishes of Rathfarnham, Whitechurch, Cruagh, and Tallaght, and after a report that it had been disposed of for £85,000 to Viscount Chetwynd, it was sold for £62,000 to the Right Hon. William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons <sup>(1)</sup>.

The village of Rathfarnham, which is said to have been in 1665 the birth-place of Robert Wilks, one of the most distinguished actors of his day, whose father was attached to the Viceregal Court, was at the close of the seventeenth, and for part of the eighteenth century, a fashionable health resort. While Bishop of Derry in the spring of 1697, the good Dr. William King retired there, after a long illness, in order to escape the atmosphere and bustle of Dublin, which he could not endure, and to spend his time free from business and company in the open air; and in the next year that most erratic of men, John Dunton, the travelling bookseller, while carrying on his scuffle with his Dublin brethren, sometimes took a ramble there to recruit himself in country scenes. The curious signs and place names which appear in old leases indicate the popularity of the place: the Sign of the Sun, the Black Lion, the Flower Pot, the Booby or Cow Walk, Hanover Hall, the Sally Park, the Spa Walk, the Roll of Tobacco, the White House, the Coffee House, and the Stake Field, are to be found amongst others. There is a tradition that some of Dean Swift's publications issued from a printing press in the village, and a ballad on the neighbouring Spa at Templeoge published in 1730 professes to have been printed at the Cherry Tree in Rathfarnham—a name which is mentioned in a deed of the period. In the spring of 1728 great rains prevailed, which resulted in the bridge of Rathfarnham being broken down and part of the deer park wall being carried away; in the next year Rathfarnham was troubled by an invasion of monster rats similar to those which appeared in Merrión; in 1730 Ambrose Kimberley was executed for the abduction of the daughter of Mr. Daniel Reading, of London, from the

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<sup>(1)</sup> "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. ix., pp. 410, 418; "Letters to and from Bishop Nicholson," vol. ii., p. 527; D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 787.

house of her nurse at Rathfarnham; and in the summer of 1740 an extraordinary shower of rain resembling blood in colour fell there (1).

During the early part of the eighteenth century the handsome mansion, what now forms the centre of the fine pile of buildings at Rathfarnham occupied by the Loretto Convent, was erected, and round it extensive gardens, orchards, and a deer park were laid out. This mansion, which is approached by a high flight of steps and is built of red brick, presents the appearance of a dwelling on



**The Loretto Convent, Rathfarnham.**

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

which money has been lavishly expended, and the reception rooms, which display ornate ceilings, wide doors of shining mahogany, and curious leather wall paper, are apartments of great magnificence. Its builder was a gentleman of much wealth, Mr. William Palliser, the only son of the Archbishop of Cashel of that name, whose memory is preserved in the "Bibliotheca Palliseriana," which he bequeathed to the Library of Trinity College. Mr. William Palliser,

(1) "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xvi., p. 236; vol. lxi., p. 280; Correspondence of Archbishop King under March and April, 1697, in Trinity College Library; Duntton's "Dublin Scuffle," p. 371; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; "Rathfarnham," by Rev. Canon Carr in *New Ireland Review*, vol. xii., p. 41; Haliday Tracts, vol. 95, preserved in Royal Irish Academy; *Dublin Gazette*, March 30, and April 9, 1728; *Flying Post*, May 16, 1729; Irish Pamphlets in Trinity College Library, vol. v., ff. 172, 181, 183; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xxxvii., No. 55.

who was himself interested in scientific and literary pursuits, and his wife enjoyed wide popularity; his recovery from serious illness in 1747 is announced as giving great joy to all his friends; and by the death of his wife, a gentlewoman of exemplary piety and virtue, and of a most benevolent and humane disposition, in 1762, her acquaintances are said to have lost an agreeable and valued friend, and the poor a kind benefactress (1). Not far from Mr. Palliser's house was the residence of the Worth family. This had been originally occupied by the Honble. William Worth, who



The Drawing Room in the Loretto Convent, Rathfarnham,

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

had a seat on the Bench as a Baron of the Exchequer in the closing years of the reign of Charles II., and retained it for four years after the accession of James II. Worth was on terms of intimacy with Lord Clarendon, and having followed that nobleman in his tortuous proceedings during the Revolution, failed to obtain reinstatement in his judicial position from William III. He took to himself no less than four wives, through one of whom he

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(1) "Mrs. Ball, a Biography," by the Rev. William Hutch, p. 86; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office; Rocque's Map of the County Dublin; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xliii., p. 117; Will of William Palliser; *Dublin Journal*, 2066; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lix., No. 29.

became possessed of the interesting sixteenth century mansion known as Old Bawn, near Tallaght. He was succeeded at Rathfarnham on his death in 1721 by his eldest son, while a younger son, who took the name of Tynte, became the owner of Old Bawn. His eldest son, Edward Worth, who died at Rathfarnham in 1741, and was buried with his father in St. Patrick's Cathedral, with much funeral pomp, was bequeathed, in addition to the property which he inherited, a considerable estate by his cousin, Dr. Worth, whose library is preserved in Dr. Stevens's Hospital, and was representative in Parliament for the borough of Knocktopher (1).

Adjoining Mr. Palliser's demesne was a house sometime occupied by Mr. Robert O'Callaghan, an eminent lawyer, who married in 1735 one of the daughters of Mr. Edward Worth, a young lady of great merit, as we are informed, who brought to her husband a fortune of £10,000. Mr. Robert O'Callaghan, who represented the borough of Fethard in Parliament until shortly before his death in 1761, was the eldest son of Mr. Cornelius O'Callaghan, one of the most distinguished lawyers of his day, who became, through a younger son, an ancestor of the Viscounts Lismore. At O'Callaghan's house in Rathfarnham the Rev. Thomas Sheridan, the friend of Swift, and grandfather of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who had been his schoolmaster, breathed his last, after uttering the oracular words, "Let it blow east, west, north, or south, the immortal soul will take its flight to the desired point." Soon after Dr. Sheridan's death in 1738 Mr. O'Callaghan's house became the residence of Mr. Balthazar John Cramer, who died in 1741, and whose son took the name of Coghill, and became a baronet, and subsequently of his widow, who was a daughter of the first Viscount Lanesborough. Amongst other residents at Rathfarnham about that time we find the Recorder of Dublin, Eaton Stannard, one of the executors of Swift's will, who represented Middleton in Parliament, and became Prime Serjeant; Lieutenant-Colonel James Fountain, of the Hon. Colonel Onslow's Regiment of Foot, who died in 1739 at his house there; Mr. John Ward, a brewer, whose house, with well-stocked gardens, was to be sold in 1741 by his widow; Mr. Richard Geering; Alderman Thomas How, whose niece, Miss Mary

(1) "Some Notes on the Irish Judiciary in the reign of Charles II." in *Journal of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society*, ser. ii., vol. viii., p. 184; *The Irish Builder* for 1894, pp. 208, 222; *Pac's Occurrences*, vol. xxx., No. 17; vol. xxxviii., No. 92; *Dublin Journal*, No. 160; Burchaell's "Members of Parliament for Kilkenny."



Holmes, "a most agreeable lady with £20,000 fortune," married in 1747 the Rev. John Palliser, the cousin and heir of Mr. William Palliser; Major Bowles, and Captain Adams (1).

About the year 1742 the house known as Whitehall, and the extraordinary cone-shaped tower encircled by a winding staircase adjacent to it, which stand at the back of Rathfarnham demesne, near the road to Dundrum, were erected by a Major Hall, who probably modelled the tower long known as "Hall's Barn" on a



Whitehall, Rathfarnham, in 1795.

*From a Plate in "The Sentimental and Masonic Magazine."*

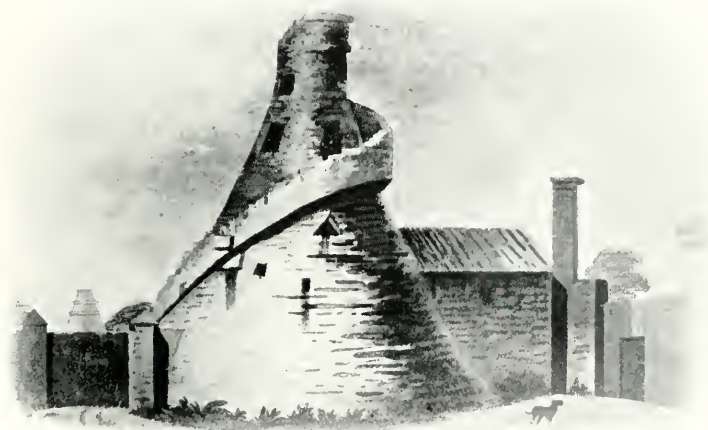
similar structure called "the Wonderful Barn," erected by the Conollys about the same time near Castletown. The house, which in the eighteenth century was described as beautiful, and in which a curious kitchen and panelled staircase are still to be seen, was afterwards the residence of the Rev. Jeremy Walsh, the curate of Dundrum, who married there in 1778 the widow of Thomas Eyre,

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(1) *The Irish Builder* for 1894, pp. 208, 222; "Swift's Works," edited by Sir Walter Scott, vol. ix., p. 313; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. xxxii., No. 33; vol. xxxv., No. 72, vol. xxxvi., No. 8; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 155, 1871, 2035, 2091, 2160, 2322, 2393; *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, ser. ii., vol. ii., p. 323; "Memoirs of Mrs. Letitia Pilkington," vol. iii., p. 114; Will of Thomas How.

sometime M.P. for the borough of Fore, and is mentioned as a well-known place in the lists of carriage fares of that time <sup>(1)</sup>.

Rathfarnham Castle, which, owing to their possession of Castletown, had not been occupied by Speaker Conolly or his successor, was, about the year 1742, purchased by the Right Rev. John Hoadly, who was at that time translated from the Archbishopric of Dublin to that of Armagh. Dr. Hoadly, who was the brother of the famous English Bishop of that name, was one of the great political prelates, but did not find the promotion of the English interest, which was the first object with all of them, inconsistent



"Hall's Barn" in 1795.

*From a Plate drawn by F. Jukes.*

with exertions for the improvement of agriculture. To this he directed both his skill and his purse, and he was beloved by the tenantry and landowners, amongst whom he excited by his example and judicious rewards a spirit of emulation and a strong desire to become better farmers. In building, "as the most useful and rational method of supporting the honest and industrious poor," he gave much employment. On his promotion to the See of Dublin in 1729 from that of Ferns, which he had previously held, he had built an episcopal mansion at Tallaght in place of the

<sup>(1)</sup> *The Sentimental and Masonic Magazine*, vol. vi., pt. i., p. 3; *Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society*, vol. ii., p. 376; "Rathfarnham," by Rev. Canon Carr in *New Ireland Review*, vol. xii., p. 38; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1778, p. 536; *Poor's Occurrences*, vol. li., No. 60.

ruined feudal castle which he had found there, and on coming into possession of Rathfarnham he proceeded to lavish money on the restoration of the Castle, which he put into a state of thorough repair and made his home.

Hoadly did not long occupy Rathfarnham, his death taking place there in 1746 from a fever said to have been contracted while superintending workmen in the demesne. His life had been one of singular activity; in a letter to the Duke of Newcastle written a few months before his death he states that for the eighteen years and more which he had been in Ireland he had constantly, without one failure, attended the King's service, and that for sixteen years he had borne the burden of the administration in the Privy Council and in the House of Lords, and, much against his will, had taken a leading part in the management of the University. His wife, a lady distinguished for her virtues and endowments, had died two years before, and the Archbishop's remains were laid with hers in the quiet country church of Tallaght (1).

Rathfarnham Castle then passed to Mr. Bellingham Boyle, who had married, in November, 1740, Archbishop Hoadly's only daughter and child—a young lady who inherited her father's taste for country pursuits. Dean Swift, who subsequently expressed great distress at hearing she had the smallpox, in one of his delightful letters thanks her for a pig and a bowl of butter which she had sent to him, and threatens to tell all the ladies of his acquaintance that the sole daughter and child of his Grace of Dublin is so mean as to descend to understand housewifery, and to show her letter to every female scrawler in order that they may spread about the town that her writing and spelling are ungenteel and unfashionable, and more like a parson's than a lady's. Bellingham Boyle, who was nephew of Henry Boyle, then Speaker of the House of Commons, and afterwards Earl of Shannon, and who represented Bandon in Parliament, proceeded, after his marriage, to his LL.D. degree in Dublin University, became a Governor of the Workhouse in room of Mr. Balthazar Cramer, and a trustee of the linen manufacture, and on the recommendation of his father-in-law and uncle was appointed a Commissioner of the Revenue.

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(1) "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxvii., p. 21; British Museum Add. MS., 32707, f. 79; Stuart's "Memoirs of Armagh," edited by Rev. Ambrose Coleman, p. 385; *Dublin Gazette*, June 16, 1744; *Dublin Journal*, No. 2019.

Boyle and his wife were prominent in the Dublin society of their day, and William, fourth Duke of Devonshire, while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, recognised their high position in society by dining with them at Rathfarnham when on his way to spend some days at Powerscourt. An advertisement of property stolen in 1751 from the Castle of Rathfarnham sets forth at length descriptions of various gorgeous articles of apparel, including a suit of clothes of bloom colour, cross-barred and flowered with silver; another suit of yellow colour, brocaded with silver and colours; a third suit of lute string striped and brocaded on a white ground; a grey duchess night-gown; a velvet mantle of cherry colour lined with white satin and bordered with ermine; and a piece of white satin quilted for a petticoat, embroidered with vine leaves in shades of green and brown stalks. In the midst of political intrigues, in which he is said to have been allied with the astute Philip Tisdal, Boyle found time to superintend the farming of his demesne, and sent in July, 1762, from Rathfarnham to the Dublin market the earliest oats ever grown in Ireland. Five years later—a few years before his death—he disposed for £17,500 of the castle and demesne (1).

The purchaser was Nicholas Loftus, second Earl of Ely, and the Castle thus once more became the residence of a descendant of its builder. He was the fourth in direct descent from the second son of Sir Dudley Loftus, the eldest son of Archbishop Loftus, and inherited Sir Dudley's Wexford estate. Both his grandfather and father had been prominent in public affairs; the former had been created Baron Loftus of Loftus Hall and Viscount Loftus of Ely, and the latter, after succeeding to those titles, had been promoted to an earldom under the title of Earl of Ely. The question of the mental capacity of the purchaser of Rathfarnham, as has been already mentioned in connection with the history of Killiney Hill, gave rise to a *cause célèbre* of the eighteenth century. His father, the first Earl of Ely, had married in 1736 the elder daughter and co-heiress of Sir Gustavus Hume, of the County Fermanagh. She died four years later, leaving as the sole issue of the marriage Nicholas, afterwards second Earl of Ely, and owner of Rathfarnham. The child, who was two years old at the time of his mother's death, was then sent to live with his maternal grandmother, Lady

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(1) "Works of Swift," edited by Sir Walter Scott, vol. xviii., p. 209, vol. xix., p. 298; Bennett's "History of Bandon," p. 344; Donoughmore Papers published by Historical Manuscripts Commission; *Dublin Gazette*, Nov. 29, 1740; *Dublin Journal*, No. 2513; *Poor's Occurrences*, vol. xxxviii., Nos. 52, 57, vol. xl., No. 9, vol. lii., No. 62, vol. lix., No. 59, vol. lxxviii., No. 7008.



Hume, and remained under her care until her death, when he was twelve years old. He was then taken by his father to live with him. His father led a dissipated life, and kept the boy, who was acknowledged to have been of delicate constitution from his birth, in a state of the most complete subjection, treating him with the greatest cruelty and neglect. Through his mother the boy, on attaining the age of twenty-one, was entitled to her property, but owing to his weak state of health his father was able to withhold knowledge of this fact from him, and to spend the money to which his son was entitled on his own pleasures. At the same time it was in the father's interest that the youth should appear capable of managing his own affairs, for, in the event of his incapacity being proved, the children of his mother's only sister, who had married Mr. George Rochfort, brother of the first Earl of Belvedere, would have succeeded on his death to the property which he inherited from his mother, and with the object of showing that he was of sound mind the father had him returned to Parliament a few years after he came of age for his pocket borough of Bannow, in the County Wexford.

Before his father's death, which took place in 1766, the Rochforts had instituted proceedings to have the question of the youth's capacity decided legally, and four months after his father's death a commission was issued to determine it. The conduct of the defence devolved on his father's only brother, Colonel the Hon. Henry Loftus, the owner of Killiney Hill, who had represented the borough of Bannow and then represented the County Wexford in Parliament. The Rochforts alleged that the youth was an idiot or of unsound mind, and his uncle put forward the defence that his condition was entirely the result of the treatment which he had received from his father, and that he was capable of instruction, stating, in proof of the treatment which the youth had received, that on posting down to Claremont, his brother's seat in the County Wicklow, after his brother's death, he found the youth miserably clad and almost in rags, so infirm and debilitated as not to be able to walk about, totally illiterate, and in ignorance of the property to which he was entitled. The Commissioners, who included two Privy Councillors, two Masters in Chancery, a King's council, an alderman, and three other gentlemen, had the assistance of a jury, and after a trial lasting five days and a personal examination of the young Earl, this jury, on which three Privy Councillors and other gentlemen of high degree served, found that the young Earl was not an idiot or of unsound mind. On appeal to the House of Lords their decision was upheld.

Three months after the trial in April, 1767, the Manor and Castle of Rathfarnham, the estate and mansion of his ancestors, was purchased for the young Earl, and money was raised to modernize and improve the structure. After a personal interview with Lord Bowes, then Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the young Earl was appointed Governor of Fermanagh, and in December of that year it was announced that he had been pleased to grant a pension to the widow of a workman who had been killed at Rathfarnham by the fall of a wall. Afterwards the Earl's health became more unsatisfactory, and in the beginning of 1769 he was taken by his uncle to Bath, and subsequently to Spa, in pursuit of health. From the latter place they returned to Ireland in October, and on the voyage the young Earl contracted an illness from which he died on the 12th of the following month. Eight days before his death he signed at Rathfarnham Castle a deed before one of the Masters in Chancery, and two days later he executed a will, leaving all he possessed to his uncle, in the presence of the Right Hon. John Ponsonby, the Speaker of the House of Commons; Sir Henry Cavendish, father of the Parliamentary reporter, mentioned in connection with the history of Booterstown; and Sir James May.

Henry Loftus, who appears so prominently in the pages of "Baratariana" as Count Henrico Loftonzo, now succeeded to the Viscounty of Ely and the ownership of Rathfarnham Castle. His possession of his nephew's estate was not undisputed, and the Rochforts instituted proceedings to upset his nephew's will, but its validity was upheld by Philip Tisdal in his capacity as Judge of the Prerogative Court. Count Loftonzo's success in this and in everything else was imputed by his enemies to political intrigue. There is no doubt that the Viceroy, the Marquis of Townshend, was most anxious to secure his support, and it was announced a year after the young Earl's death that "the great man" had been sumptuously entertained by a nobleman not far from Rathfarnham, and that since that time he had boasted of his conquests, which had not, however, been attained without the promise of places of profit to eight of the peer's dependants. Matchmaking seems to have been an amusement of Count Loftonzo and his wife; in the same year in which Lord Townshend visited Rathfarnham it is recorded that a Wexford gentleman was married at Rathfarnham Castle, the seat of the Right Hon. Viscount Loftus, to a young lady "of great merit and beauty, with every other accomplishment which can render the marriage state happy," and if rumour spoke truth Count Loftonzo's wife spared no effort to secure Lord Townshend as husband for her niece, the lovely Dolly Monro.

The year 1771 saw the Earldom of Ely created for the second time in favour of Count Loftonzo, and on Angelica Kauffmann's visit to Ireland, which then took place, she painted a picture of the newly-made Earl and his Countess. This picture, which now hangs in the Irish National Gallery, is painted on one of the largest canvases ever used by the artist, and represents in a flowery garden, almost in life size, the Earl in his ermine tippet, and his Countess, in the full dress robes of a peeress, while near them are two beautiful girls, said to be the artist and Dolly Monro, and a negro attendant holding a cushion on which two coronets rest. Three years later the Earl had the misfortune to lose his wife, after a long illness; but, although Provost Andrews thought it would be impossible to find as amiable a successor, he was not long in filling up the vacancy, and subsequently we see him on the eve of St. Patrick's Day at a masquerade ball figuring as a hermit and his second wife as a washerwoman. On the institution of the Order of St. Patrick Lord Ely was named as one of the original knights, but was unable to attend the installation, and died a few months later in May, 1783, at Bath. One of the obituary notices which appeared says that his death was nothing short of a national loss, as his fortune was spent in the improvement of his country and in encouraging honest industry amongst the poor, and another refers to his rapid advancement in life from the rank and revenue of a private gentleman to a very rich earldom and great Parliamentary influence (1).

Lord Ely's operations at Rathfarnham Castle were on a scale of regal magnificence. In the decoration of the interior of the house the talented artists and skilled artizans then to be found in Dublin were employed, and in the drawing-room, the small dining-room with its exquisitely painted ceiling, the gilt room with its inlaid chimney-piece, and the stately ball-room, their work is still to be seen. Amongst those who were engaged in beautifying the house was Angelica Kauffmann, and panels painted by her adorn the elaborate ceiling of the drawing-room. In the demesne the noble gateway on the river Dodder exhibits the classic taste of the

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(1) Lease in Registry of Deeds Office; "Old Dublin Mansion Houses," by Edward Evans in *The Irish Builder* for 1894, p. 242; Prerogative Cause Papers, *Ely v. Rochfort* in Public Record Office; "Rathfarnham Castle, its sale and history," by John P. Prendergast in *The Irish Times* for May 19, 1891; Josiah Brown's "Reports of Cases in the Court of Parliament," vol. i., p. 450, vol. vii., p. 469; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 4148, 6638; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lxiv., No. 6653, vol. xlvii., No. 6958; Will of Nicholas, second Earl of Ely; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. ii., pp. 84, 85; Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rept. viii., App., p. 195; *Gentlemen's Magazine* for 1783, p. 453; *Freeman's Journal*, vol. vii., No. 125.

Earl and his extravagant conceptions. On visiting the Castle in 1781 Austin Cooper was lost in admiration, and forty years later James N. Brewer refers to its splendours. After describing the Castle as we see it to-day, a square building with towers at each corner and a semi-circular extension on the southern side, Austin Cooper tells us that it was originally embattled and had small



The Ceiling of the Small Dining Room in Rathfarnham Castle.

*From a Photograph by Thomas Mason.*

Gothic windows, but that a coping of stone had been substituted for the battlements and that the windows had been modernized. He mentions the portico, consisting of a dome, on which the signs of the Zodiac were painted, supported on eight Doric columns, and the hall. The latter, he says, was lighted by three windows of stained glass, which have now disappeared, made by Thomas Jervais, who executed the window designed by Sir Joshua Reynolds in New College, Oxford, and was ornamented with statues, busts, and urns on pedestals of variegated marble. Afterwards he inspected a



room, then called the gallery, in which he saw a cabinet of tortoise-shell and brass filled with ivory ornaments of rare beauty, and concludes by saying that a description of the other rooms, of the family portraits, of the paintings collected by the first Earl of Ely, and of the china, would require a volume (1).

Henry, Earl of Ely, was succeeded at Rathfarnham by his nephew, Charles Tottenham, the son of one of his sisters, who had married the famous member of the Tottenham family known as "Tottenham in the boots," from his having appeared in the House of Commons in riding dress, and saved his country by recording his vote at the sacrifice of the sacred conventionalities of the period. Charles Tottenham, who took the name of Loftus, was made the subject of renewed litigation by the Rochforts, in which they were successful, but this defeat does not appear to have seriously impaired his wealth, and soon after he succeeded to Rathfarnham he was raised to the peerage as Baron Loftus, and subsequently was created Marquis of Ely. The demesne at Rathfarnham, then remarkable for an aviary in which there were ostriches and many other rare birds, was thrown open by him to the public, for which he received high encomiums from the press, and the Lords Lieutenants of his day were entertained by him frequently in the great dining-room of the Castle (2).

The village of Rathfarnham at the end of the eighteenth century was said by Austin Cooper to be a small village with very few houses of the better class, and the residents in the neighbourhood were not numerous. Amongst those connected with Rathfarnham in the latter part of that century we find—the Rev. John Palliser, D.D., who succeeded to the residence of his cousin, Mr. William Palliser, and who died in 1795; Mr. Richard Wetherall, who died in 1752, leaving money for the endowment of a grammar school; Mr. Edward Slicer, who died in the same year at a very advanced age; the agreeable widow Slicer, who married in 1757 Sir Timothy Allen, sometime Lord Mayor of Dublin; Mr. Benjamin Sherrard, an eminent linen manufacturer, who died in 1766; Mr. John Lamprey, a young gentleman of unblemished reputation, who died in the same year at Waxfield; Alderman James Horan, and Alderman James Hamilton; Sir George Ribton, the second baronet of

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(1) Cooper's Note Book; Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," vol. i., p. 210; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xxix., p. 353.

(2) Lodge's Peerage, vol. vii., p. 269; Rutland Papers, vol. iii., p. 83, published by Historical Manuscripts Commission; Post Chaise Companion; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788–1789, pp. 208, 255, 1790–1791, p. 96.

the name, who built Landscape; and Mr. Garret English, an upright and active magistrate (for an assault on whom a man was in 1790 whipped from the bridge of Rathfarnham to the upper end of the town), who lies buried in Dundrum graveyard. Amongst owners of property were the Presbyterian Church, which owned land in Rathfarnham, originally leased in 1679 by Viscount Lisburne to Daniel Reading, and subsequently sold by the Right Hon. Thomas Conolly to the Rev. Richard Choppin, one of the ministers of the meeting house in Wood Street, Dublin, and Provost Hely Hutchinson, who owned Butterfield House, and gave the fair green to the village <sup>(1)</sup>.

The bridge at Rathfarnham was carried away once more in June, 1754, by floods, caused by the greatest rain known for years, and one built in its place suffered the same fate. These disasters, Austin Cooper says, were due to the supports resting in the water on bad foundations, and a bridge of a single arch was, about the year 1765, thrown across the river, which, from the fact that it rested on the solid banks, Cooper predicted would last for years. A ford near the present bridge at Orwell Road was sometimes used, and after crossing it in his carriage in the year 1773, Counsellor Walsh was robbed of his gold watch valued at 50 guineas. Samuel Derrick, who succeeded Beau Nash as Master of the Ceremonies at Bath, and for whom the great Samuel Johnson had a kindness, mentions that on a visit to Ireland in 1760, when driving from the County Kildare to Bray, he dined at Rathfarnham, and an inn bearing the Sign of the Ship existed there some years later. The manufacture of paper was carried on to a very considerable extent by a Mr. Mansergh, who died in 1763, and by Mr. Thomas Slator, whose works were destroyed in 1775 by fire, and dye works, which were owned in 1752 by Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, were established near the bridge. Nurseries owned by the Bruces, eminent seedsmen of the fairest character, supplied all manner of fruit and forest trees, flowering shrubs, and green-house plants, and the early production of farm produce, already noted in connection with Mr. Bellingham Boyle's occupation of the Castle, was maintained by a barrel of new wheat being brought in 1768 on August 6th from

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(1) Austin Cooper's Note Book; Post Chaise Companion; *Exshaw's Magazine* for 1752, p. 669; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 2561, 2624; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. liv., No. 81, vol. lix., No. 31, vol. lxii., No. 6429, vol. lxiii., Nos. 6501, 6512; *Freeman's Journal*, vol. xii., No. 17; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1790-1791, pp. 416, 487; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1787, p. 387; Ball and Hamilton's "Parish of Tanev," p. 31; D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 787; "A short account of the Funds of the Presbyterian Church," by Rev. James Armstrong, Dublin, 1815, p. 44.

Rathfarnham to the Dublin Market. During the Volunteer movement Rathfarnham was often visited by the Dublin companies; in 1783 the Light Company of the Independent Dublin Volunteers made an excursion there on a Sunday in October, and after being sumptuously entertained by Alderman Horan, on whose lawn they went through their martial exercises, spent the evening "with the greatest good humour and cheerfulness" (1).

Rathfarnham Castle was dismantled by the Loftus family in the early part of the nineteenth century, and after having been occupied for a time by a family called Roper, under whom the demesne was used for dairy purposes, it was bought about the year 1852 by Lord Chancellor Blackburne. The neighbouring residence of the Pallisers, after the death of the Rev. John Palliser, passed into the possession of the King's Printer, Mr. George Grierson, whose model farm was noted for the production of prize crops and cattle, and was sold subsequently to its present occupants, the Convent of the Loretto (2).

## RATHGAR.

THE lands now covered by the populous suburb of Rathgar, which lies between Rathmines and Rathfarnham, were in the centuries immediately succeeding the Anglo-Norman Conquest, the grange or home farm of the Abbey of St. Mary de Hogges—a convent for nuns of the rule of St. Augustine, which stood upon College Green, then called the Hogges or the mounds. At that time there were to be seen on the lands the Abbey's manor house, granary, and other farm buildings (for robbery from which one David Lugg was at the beginning of the fourteenth century sentenced to be hanged), and a wood of considerable extent. In the sixteenth century, when the dissolution of the religious houses took place, the premises and lands, which were returned as containing ninety acres arable, and three of wood, were held under the Convent by James Richards, and some years later they were granted by the Crown to Nicholas Segrave (3).

(1) "Derrick's Letters," Dublin, 1767, p. 67; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xiv., p. 399; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 2672, 6701; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. li., Nos. 49, 74, vol. lviii., No. 27, vol. lx., No. 25, vol. lxiv., No. 6620, vol. lxx., Nos. 6704, 6721, vol. lxxvii., No. 6959, vol. lxxviii., No. 7032; *Freeman's Journal*, vol. xi., No. 12, vol. xii., No. 69.

(2) Curwen's "Observations on the State of Ireland," vol. ii., p. 137; Handcock's "History of Tallaght." See for pictures of Rathfarnham in the nineteenth century, *Cyclopedian Magazine* for 1807, p. 385; *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. iii., p. 369.

(3) D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 780; Justiciary Roll; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. iii., p. 1.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century the castle or manor house of Rathgar had become the country residence of the Cusacks, one of the oldest and most leading mercantile families in Dublin, and was occupied by Mr. John Cusack, who was in 1608 Mayor of Dublin. His son, Mr. Robert Cusack, succeeded him. The latter had entered in 1617 as a law student at Lincoln's Inn, but his only appearance in legal proceedings seems to have been as defendant in a suit taken by the Prebendary of St. Audoen's in Dublin to compel him to restore an entry to that church which some member of his family had obstructed more than sixty years before by building a house across it. He served as Sheriff of his county, and during the troublous times after the Rebellion suffered severely by his loyalty to the throne. At the time the Duke of Ormonde was apprehensive of being besieged in Dublin by the Confederates, Mr. Cusack found it necessary to obtain orders forbidding the Royalist troops from cutting timber in the wood of Rathgar and taking his horses and carts while drawing his corn, and serious injury must have been done to his house during the Battle of Rathmines, when it was taken possession of by some of the Royalist soldiers. Being a Protestant, Mr. Cusack was allowed to remain in possession of his lands under the Commonwealth, and when the Restoration came we find him living there in a house which was rated as containing five hearths, his household including his wife, Alice, his eldest son, John, his daughter, Katherine, two men servants, and two maid servants, one described as a little short wench and the other as a full fat wench; and the only other residents on the lands being two poor women <sup>(1)</sup>.

After Robert Cusack's death Rathgar became the residence of his second son, the Honble. Adam Cusack, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas. During the Commonwealth Adam Cusack, who had attained to the position of a Fellow in Trinity College, Dublin, entered as a law student in his father's Inn, and when the Restoration came, though he had not completed seven years' residence, the period then required, he was allowed, on undertaking not to practise in England, to be called to the Bar. In Ireland, as he had much influence, owing to his being by marriage a nephew of Sir Maurice Eustace, the Lord Chancellor, he came quickly to the front, and twelve years after his call to the Bar, having filled while

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(1) D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 780; Gilbert's "History of Dublin," vol. i., p. 279; Lincoln's Inn Admissions: Carte Papers, clxiv., ff. 33, 315, and under date Jan. 3, 1667; Survey of Baronies of Uppercross and Newcastle in Public Record Office; Hearth Money Roll; Census of 1659.



a practising barrister the position of a Justice and Chief Justice of the Provincial Court of Connaught, he was appointed to the Common Pleas. He appears to have been a delicate man; during his judicial career he was for two years unable to discharge his duties through ill-health, and he died in 1681 at a comparatively early age. His will indicates his benevolent character. Besides legacies to numerous relatives, he bequeathed sums of money to the poor in Rathfarnham and in St. Audoen's parishes; to the hospital in Back Lane, and to that at Oxmantown, now known as the Blue Coat School; and to the prisoners in Newgate and "the Black Dog." He had married a sister of John Keatinge, who, during Adam Cusack's lifetime, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and afterwards became well known on account of the part he played at the time of the Revolution, but had no children. His widow continued to reside at Rathgar, and married, as her second husband, Mr. Nicholas Cusack. The latter was outlawed in 1690 for treason, but the property was subsequently restored to the Cusack family (1).

During the eighteenth century the castle or manor house fell into ruin, and Austin Cooper in 1782 found at Rathgar only the walls of a large and extensive building, which, he says, had a modern appearance, with the remains of several offices near to them, and an entrance gateway, which, as a staircase indicated, had formerly been arched over, and which looked older than the main structure. The lands were let to market gardeners and dairymen, including a certain John Mooney, whose son's disreputable career and death on the scaffold, for highway robbery, form the subject of a religious tract of the period, and it was not until 1753 that they were opened up for building by the construction of an avenue from the gate of Rathmines Castle, then occupied by Chief Justice Yorke, to Terenure. A sham fight of the Dublin Volunteers took place in 1784 on the lands of Rathgar, and the ruined castle was fortified and occupied by some of the troops, who were only driven out of it with great difficulty (2).

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(1) "Some Notes on the Irish Judiciary in the reign of Charles II.," *Journal of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society*, Ser. ii., vol. vii., p. 226; Todd's "Graduates of the University of Dublin"; "Black Book of Lincoln's Inn," vol. iii., p. 3; Exchequer Inquisition, Wm. and Mary, Dublin, No. 6.

(2) "The Life of Nicholas Mooney," in Haliday Tracts, vol. 242, in Royal Irish Academy; Cooper's Note Book: *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 2699, 6797.

## TERENURE AND KIMMAGE.

THE earliest mention of these lands, which lie between Rathfarnham and Crumlin, is a grant made in 1206 to Audoen le Brun, Chamberlain of the Irish Exchequer, of the tithes of two carucates of demesne lands in Terenure and Kimmage held by Walter, the goldsmith. Soon afterwards in 1216 Hugh de Barnewall was granted protection for his chattels, lands, and tenements in Terenure and Drimmagh, and from that time until the Commonwealth the Barnewall family was connected as owner with Terenure and Kimmage, as well as with Drimmagh. In 1221 the property of the Barnewalls was temporarily placed in custody of John de St. John, and in 1228 was restored to Reginald, brother of Hugh de Barnewall, who had succeeded to it through the death of his brother without heirs, and who was then actively engaged in the defence of Ireland for the King. A portion of the lands of Kimmage were, however, in the thirteenth century included in the lordship of Rathfarnham, and in 1269 Walter de Bret granted half a carucate of land in Kimmage, which touched on the watercourse from Templeogue and on the lands of Terenure, to William de Tathecony, who transferred it for the yearly rent of one penny or a white dove to John de Hache. The latter, together with Thomas Russell, of Crumlin, was also granted a lease by Geoffrey le Bret on condition that they should supply him annually with wine value for twelve pence and admit him to dinner, failing which hospitality he preserved the right to claim both the wine and its value. In subsequent legal proceedings Felicia, widow of John de Hache, Alice, widow of John Russell, and Ralph, son of John Russell, are mentioned in connection with the lands.

The owners of Terenure were generous benefactors to the church. The Prior of St. Lawrence by Dublin agreed in 1300 with Reginald Barnewall and Johanna, his mother, to recover a rent charge of 20s. on the lands left by Wolfran de Barnewall to that establishment, and an owner of the same name granted portion of the lands, afterwards known as St. John's Leas, extending from the manor of St. Sepulchre to the watercourse, to the Hospital of St. John without Newgate. In the seventeenth century a castle and six other dwellings stood upon the lands of Terenure and Kimmage, which were then in the possession of Peter Barnewall. He was residing there when the Rebellion broke out, and, according to depositions made by his tenants, escaped plunder himself and

showed little real sympathy with those who were not so fortunate. One of those tenants, Thomas Mason by name, in deposing to the loss of cattle, horses, and household stuff, stated that Mr. Barnewall refused to allow him to put his cattle for safety into his pigeon house park, and that after the cattle had been carried off, Mr. Barnewall advised him to employ for their recovery one of his servants called Toole, who, although he was armed with warrants from the Lords Justices and paid a pound by Mason, failed to find the cattle. From a subsequent deposition it appears that the cattle had been carried off from the Caim or Pass of Killenure, near Rathfarnham, by John Woodfin, a retainer of "the grand rebel." Toole, of Powerscourt, who acknowledged to Mason that he had taken them, together with sixty sheep belonging to the Archbishop of Dublin, and told him that some of the cattle had been stolen from him, but that he had recovered them and hanged the thief. Another of the tenants, William Dickinson by name, who stated that the rent of his farm was £90 a year, deposed that Mr. Barnewall's late servant, Toole, and John Woodfin, were amongst those concerned in robbing him of a number of cattle and horses, and of a barrel of beer, which he appears to have considered of equal importance with the live stock <sup>(1)</sup>.

During the Commonwealth, Terenure, which then contained a castle in good repair, and a dwelling-house which had been a mill, and Kimmage, on which there was also a castle, were leased to Major Alexander Elliott. The lands of St. John's Leas had before that time come into the possession of Nicholas Loftus, the younger brother of Sir Adam Loftus, and ancestor of the Marquises of Ely. There was stated to be a castle upon them, but it does not appear to have been occupied by the owner, as a return made in 1644 of property left by him in Ireland on going to England mentions his goods as being in Dublin, in charge of Mr. Recorder Byssse and other persons, and in the Castle of Rathfarnham. In a survey of Terenure made by the Parliament, which gives the population as twenty persons, a young farmer called John Sheppey is returned as the principal inhabitant, but shortly before the Restoration Mr. Erasmus Cooke appears as resident there in a dwelling-house with land, for which he paid a rent of £90 a year. After the Restoration Major Harman occupied a house rated as containing four

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(1) Memoranda and Pleas Roll; Sweetman's Calendar, 1171-1251, No. 297; "The Norman Settlement in Leinster," by James Mills in *Journal, R.S.A.I.*, vol. xxiv. p. 169; "Rathfarnham," by Rev. Canon Carr in *New Ireland Review*, vol. xii., p. 35; D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 775; Depositions of 1641 (William Dickinson and Thomas Mason of Terenure).

hearths at Terenure, only one of the other eight inhabitants, Samuel Dixon, having a house with two hearths, and Kimmage was occupied by Abel Carter, and subsequently by Thomas Pegg (1).

The site of the great house of Terenure in the eighteenth century is now occupied by the Carmelite College, and the demesne, divided about the beginning of the nineteenth century by the road from the village of Terenure or Roundtown to Tallaght, ran down to the river Dodder, joining there the lands of Rathfarnham, and including all the lands comprised in Bushy Park. It was the seat



**Terenure House now the Carmelite College.**

of the Deane family, whose members, as representatives in Parliament of the metropolitan county and of the borough of Inistiogue, in the County Kilkenny, were prominent in the political life of that period. Their residence at Terenure was due to the purchase in 1671 of its lands, together with those of Kimmage and "the Broads," for £4,000 from Richard Talbot, afterwards Earl of Tyrconnel, in whom the fee was then vested, by Major Joseph Deane, of Crumlin. Major Deane, who was a brother of one of the regicides, had served in the army of the Parliament, but was received into favour on the Restoration, and became member for Inistiogue and

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(1) Crown Rental; Down Survey; Survey of Uppercross and Newcastle; Carte Papers, vol. xii., f. 617; Census of 1659; Hearth Money Roll; Subsidy Rolls; Book of Survey and Distribution.



Sheriff of the County Dublin, as well as owner of large estates. On his death in 1699 Terenure passed to his second son, Edward, who sat in Parliament for twenty-five years, for five of which he was one of the representatives for the County Dublin, and for the remainder of the time for Inistiogue. Edward Deane, on his death in 1717, was succeeded at Terenure by his eldest son, who bore the same Christian name, and who had been returned two years before as the second member for Inistiogue. The latter died in 1748, and Terenure was for a short time in the possession of his eldest son, who also bore the name of Edward, and sat for Inistiogue. An advertisement appeared from the last-named in 1750 announcing that the house of Terenure was to be set, and mentioning, amongst other attractions, that in the gardens, which contained about four acres, there were two large fish ponds stocked with carp and tench, and that the house commanded an agreeable prospect of the harbour of Dublin. A year later, in 1751, this young man, while at Harwich, was shot in a duel. As he was unmarried, Terenure, on his death, passed to his brother, Joseph Deane, the youngest son of the second Edward Deane, of Terenure. This owner of Terenure was the most distinguished member of his family; he sat for many years in Parliament as member for the metropolitan county, and married the daughter and heiress of Matthew Freeman, of Castlecor, in the County Cork, whose name his descendants bear. Amongst the tenants who occupied houses on the lands of Terenure under the Deanes we find at the beginning of the eighteenth century Mr. John Falkiner, who was Sheriff of the County Dublin in 1721, and whose house afterwards came into the possession of Mr. Travers Hartley, sometime member for the City of Dublin, through his marriage to Mr. Falkiner's grand-daughter—the rise in the value of property during that century being shown in the fact that the house with thirty acres of land was leased in 1717 at a rent of £69 a year, in 1756 at a rent of £150, and in 1792 at a rent of £422 (1).

The connection with Terenure of the family of Shaw, now represented by Sir Frederick Shaw, Baronet, whose residence, Bushy Park, has been mentioned as forming part of the original demesne of Terenure House, dates from the latter part of the eighteenth century, when Terenure House was taken by Mr. Robert Shaw,

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(1) Report Irish Record Commission, vol. iii., p. 372; Burtchaell's "Members of Parliament for Kilkenny"; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. xiv., p. 254; *Dublin Journal*, No. 2389; *Ershaw's Magazine* for 1751, p. 502; Leases in Registry of Deeds Office

Controller of the General Post Office in Ireland and founder of one of the leading Dublin banks of his day, from whom the present baronet is fourth in descent. His appointment to the chief position in the Irish Post Office was due to his merit and abilities, and on his death in 1796 an appreciative notice which appeared in the *Hibernian Magazine* applauds his dignity, generous temper, unaffected piety, and extensive charity. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert, who, after representing the City of Dublin in Parliament for many years, and serving as Lord Mayor, was created



Fortfield House.

a baronet. Sir Robert Shaw married the only daughter and heiress of Mr. Abraham Wilkinson, and through the purchase of the lands of Terenure by his father-in-law became owner of the Deane property. On the construction of the road to Tallaght, Sir Robert Shaw moved his residence to Bushy Park, and Terenure House became subsequently the residence of Mr. Frederick Bourne, in whose time it was noted for the beauty of its gardens (1).

Fortfield House, the fine residence of Mr. Louis Perrin-Hatchell, which stands upon the lands of Kimmage, was built about the year

(1) Burke's "Peerage and Baronetage"; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1796, pt. ii., p. 1; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. li., p. 435; Deeds in possession of Sir Frederick Shaw; London's "Encyclopedia of Gardening," Lon. 1830, p. 1095.

1785 by the illustrious Barry Yelverton, Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, and first Viscount Avonmore, one of the greatest orators that ever adorned the Bar of Ireland. In its construction no expense was spared, and its walls display the work of the artists and artizans who found employment in Dublin at that period. After the death of Lord Avonmore in 1805 Fortfield was sold to John, first Lord Clanmorris, and was demised by him in 1811 to Sir William MacMahon, sometime Master of the Rolls, from whom in 1858 it was purchased by the Right Hon. John Hatchell, the grandfather of the present owner (1).

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE remains of an ecclesiastical building in the old graveyard of Rathfarnham mark the site of a church dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, which stood there at the time of the Anglo-Norman Conquest. During the thirteenth century the advowson was the subject of prolonged litigation, first between the lord of the soil, Milo le Bret, and the Archbishop of Dublin, and afterwards between the Archdeacon of Dublin and the Priory of the Holy Trinity, to whom the Archbishop and Milo le Bret seem to have transferred their respective claims. In 1225 the Pope assigned the determination of the dispute to the Priors of St. John and of St. Thomas, Dublin, and of Conall, in the County Kildare, and as a result the church was assigned to the Priory. The dispute did not, however, end with this decision, and in 1253 the question was referred to the Dean and Precentor of the distant Cathedral of Lismore for hearing. Ultimately about the year 1267 a settlement was arrived at between William de Northfield, then Archdeacon of Dublin, and the Priory of the Holy Trinity, by which the church was assigned to him and his successors subject to the payment of twelve marks to the Priory; and, in the appointment of one of Northfield's immediate successors, Rathfarnham (which was assessed at the high ecclesiastical valuation of twenty-seven marks), is called a prebend in the Cathedral of St. Patrick, in right of which the Archdeacon was to be assigned a stall in the choir and a seat in the chapter. After the death of Northfield and again in 1301 the Priory attempted to raise a claim to the church, but from Northfield's time until the nineteenth century it remained portion of the corps of the Archdeaconry. When the Cathedral of St. Patrick was for a time

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(1) Deeds in possession of Mr. Perrin-Hatchell; "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. lxiii., p. 314.

dissolved in the early part of the sixteenth century the rectory of Rathfarnham, then leased to Sir John Allen, was the most valuable of those within the Archdeacon's corps. The tithes extended over townlands known as Rathfarnham, Newtown, Prestownland, Bowdanstown, Scholarstown, Terenure, Kimmage, St. John's Leas, and Rathgar, and had been leased by the Archdeacon to one William Wirrall for £40, while the curate, who held the glebe house and eleven acres of arable land, and was assigned the fees and oblations, had to pay the Archdeacon 26s. in addition (1).

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the church was served, as well as Donnybrook and Taney, by the Rev. Robert Pont, the fabric was stated to be in good repair, but some years later, when served in like manner by the Rev. Richard Prescott, although sixty persons attended divine service, it was said to be ruinous. Subsequently we find the church served by the same curate as Taney, the Rev. Thomas Naylor, and from 1640 to 1647, when the cure was returned as vacant, the Rev. George Hudson was in charge. During those troublous times the incumbent of Kilmannon, in the diocese of Ferns, the Rev. Davis Archer, took refuge at Rathfarnham, and under the Commonwealth the Rev. James Bishop, already mentioned in connection with Bullock, held for a time the cure of the parish. After the Restoration Rathfarnham, which, during the rule of James II., was sequestered with Donnybrook, continued under the care of the same curate as Donnybrook and Taney until the year 1706, when the Rev. Henry Brenn was appointed to the sole charge of the parish. He resigned in 1711, and the Rev. John Owen, afterwards Dean of Clonmacnoise, was nominated as his successor, but does not appear to have discharged the duties, as the curacy is returned as vacant until 1718, when the Rev. Isaac Lake was appointed. He was succeeded in 1724 by the Rev. John Towers, in 1727 by the Rev. William Candler, in 1728 by the Rev. Richard Wybrauts, in 1733 by the Rev. Anyon Challenor, and in 1746 by the Rev. William Grueber. A cousin of the Pallisers, the Rev. George Thomas, followed Mr. Grueber in 1752, and continued curate of the parish until 1768, when his death took place. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the Rev. Walter Thomas, and subsequently by his son-in-law, the Rev. Philip Homan, a member of the family seated at Surock, in the County Westmeath, who had married in 1763 "the amiable Miss Mary Anne Thomas." Mr. Homan was presented in

(1) Christ Church Deeds; "Crede Mibi," edited by Sir John Gilbert, pp. 111, 136; Sweetman's Calendar, 1171-1251, No. 1242; 1252-1284, No. 1492; Mason's "History of St. Patrick's Cathedral," pp. 42-46.



1789 with a piece of plate to mark the great esteem in which he had been held during a connection with the parish of twenty years (1).

The church, of which some remains are still to be seen in the graveyard of Rathfarnham, became, about the year 1780, too small for the parishioners, who were returned in 1766 as including 347 Protestants, inhabiting 82 houses, besides 797 Roman Catholics, inhabiting 154 houses, and, notwithstanding the fact that it was in 1770 selected by the Bishop of Elphin, Dr. William Gore, for the purposes of an ordination, it was in a very decayed state, as we are told by Austin Cooper, who says it was a plain building with a small chancel and a modern porch. A grant of £400 was voted in 1783 by Parliament for the construction of a new church, and after an order for a change of site had been obtained the foundation stone of the present edifice was laid in June, 1784, by the Rev. Philip Homan. Eleven years later, on June 7th, 1795, in response to a petition signed by, amongst others, the Marquis of Ely, Barry Yelverton of Fortfield, and Sir George Ribton of Landscape, it was consecrated for divine worship. In the eighteenth century the residence of the clergymen was the house known as Ashfield, now the seat of Mr. John Denis Tottenham, and in the early part of the nineteenth century of the eminent Sir William Cusack Smith, Baron of the Exchequer (2). Towards the close of the eighteenth century two public schools for the children of the poor were established in the village (3).

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(1) Regal Visitation of 1615; Archbishop Bulkeley's Report, p. 155; Carte Papers, vol. xxi., f. 555; Civil List of Ministers' Yearly Salaries, 1655-1660; Diocesan Records; Church Miscellaneous Papers in Public Record Office; *Exshaw's Magazine* for 1746, p. 651; Will of Rev. George Thomas; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. ix., Nos. 18, 24; *Dublin Chronicle*, 1788-1789, p. 40; 1789-1790, p. 232; Lyons' "Grand Juries of Westmeath."

(2) A mural tablet to the memory of Barry Yelverton was erected by Sir William Cusack Smith (for whom see notice in "Dictionary of National Biography," vol. liii., p. 155) in Rathfarnham Church. It bears the following inscription:—"In the adjoining cemetery are deposited the mortal remains of Barry Viscount Avonmore, late Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, who departed this life on the 19th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1805. In consideration of having long been honoured with his lordship's friendship Sir William Cusack Smith, Baronet, has obtained a kind permission of which he avails himself with gratitude and pride by consecrating to his respected memory this tablet. It is a plain one but it bears the name of Yelverton, and therefore is not unadorned. The abilities and worth which it might with truth record it, however, cannot be necessary to commemorate here, of merits so recent and so eminent as his, on the minds of the present generation the impression must be strong; while considering the eventful periods which his life embraced, and the elevated and active sphere in which it was his lot to move, to transmit those merits to posterity seems the task of the historian to whom, accordingly and fearlessly, it is surrendered by the friend."

(3) Religious Returns of 1766; Cooper's Note Book; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. ixvii., No. 6928; *Dublin Journal*, Nos. 6714, 6808; Diocesan Records; *Hibernian Magazine* for 1790, p. 94.

Under the Roman Catholic Church the parish of Rathfarnham formed originally portion of the Union of Tallaght, and in 1697 we find it served by the Rev. Timothy Kelly, who was then living at Oldecastle. His successors have been, in 1730, the Rev. Nicholas Gibbons; in 1750, the Rev. Owen Smyth; in 1766, the Rev. Robert Bethel, who is buried in the graveyard at Whitechurch, and in whose time £200, which had been collected for the purpose of building an addition to the chapel at Rathfarnham, was stolen from the vestry; in 1781, the Rev. William Ledwidge; in 1810, the Rev. Nicholas Kearns; in 1832, the Rev. Laurence Roche; in 1851, the Rev. William McDonnell; in 1864, the Rev. Daniel Byrne; in 1868, the Rev. Nicholas O'Connor, afterwards Bishop of Ballarat; in 1874, the Rev. Robert Meyler; in 1894, the Rev. Thomas Kearney; and in 1900, the Rev. Pierce Gossan <sup>(1)</sup>.

The succession of clergymen under the Established Church, after the Rev. Philip Homan, has been as follows:—in 1789, the Rev. John Lyster; in 1793, the Rev. Henry MacLean <sup>(2)</sup>, who served the cure for forty-four years, and in whose time Archbishop Magee was laid to rest in the old graveyard <sup>(3)</sup>; in 1838, the Rev. George Augustus Shaw and the Rev. Benjamin Bunbury; in 1842, the Rev. John William Finlay; in 1844, the Rev. John James Digges La Touche; in 1851, the Rev. Thomas Neligan Kearney, in whose time the parish was severed from the corps of the Archdeacon of Dublin; in 1854, the Rev. Lancelot Dowdall; and in 1884, the Rev. James Sandys Bird.

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<sup>(1)</sup> D'Alton's "History of the County Dublin," p. 768; *Pue's Occurrences*, vol. lxii., No. 6384, vol. lxxviii., No. 7028.

<sup>(2)</sup> A mural tablet in Rathfarnham Church bears the following inscription:—  
 "In a vault adjoining to this House of God lie the mortal remains of the Rev. Henry MacLean, Curate of the parish of Rathfarnham and Magistrate for the Co. Dublin, 44 years. His parishioners unite in this testimonial of love and esteem for their departed friend whose kindly manners, strict integrity, and unostentatious charity endeared him to the rich and poor of an extensive neighbourhood. He died regretted on the 2nd of March, 1838, aged 68 years."

<sup>(3)</sup> See for inscriptions on tombs and mural tablets, *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, Ireland*, vol. ii., pp. 83, 479, vol. v., p. 55.



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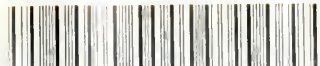




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